

the chronicle

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Woman, 19, is victim of sex attack

A 19-year-old woman was sexually assaulted in Walsall. The victim was attacked on the grassed area near a cycle route off Station Road, Rushall.

Police believe people walking past may have seen the attack and are urging them to come forward. It is believed a local dog walker and a woman with children were near the scene at the time.

Dc Gail Cartridge said: "The location is part of the national cycle route and the offence happened right next to the pathway on a grassed area by the stream that runs along it."

"We know that at the time there were people in the area specifically a female with four children I am appealing for these possible witnesses to come forward to tell us what they saw."

"We want to reassure people in the community that it is believed the people involved in this isolated incident knew each other, but we are anxious to trace any other witnesses who were in the area who may have seen anything to come forward."

An 18-year-old man was arrested in connection with the incident and is currently on police bail while inquiries continue. The incident happened on April 9 between 4.15pm and 7pm.

Anyone with information should call Dc Cartridge at Bloxwich on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Free parking at Wharf is ended

Free parking at Walsall's Crown Wharf shopping centre has been scrapped – because it is so popular and causing queues of traffic.

Drivers used to get the first large free at the Wharf but its popularity had led to large queues of traffic clogging up the town's ring road.

Now motorists will be charged £1 for an hour and £1.40 for two hours.

It is the latest blow for drivers in the town centre, who have already been hit with on-street parking charges in 19 town centre streets. Bosses at the centre, which is home to Asda Living, Next and Outfit, said parking pressures in the town had led to an increase in people seeking a free stay and not visiting the shops.

Andrew Rollings, a spokesman for Crown Wharf owners British Land, said: "We hope our customers understand why the changes have been made and that they find the new system quick and easy to use."

Problems sparked by cars waiting to get into the retail park were so bad police put up signs threatening drivers with prosecution if they were caught waiting on Wolverhampton Street.

Entry and exit barriers have now been removed and the car park has switched to a pay and display system where drivers key in their registration number when they buy a ticket. Number plates of vehicles leaving the car park will be scanned.

Busy town gateway is to become a red route

One of Walsall's busiest roads will officially become a red route from Monday. Work has already been carried out to make the A454 Wolverhampton Road, linking the town centre and junction 10 of the M6, a no-stopping zone.

Once the rules come into force, drivers who flout them could be hit with fines. Walsall Council will be in charge of enforcing the new regulations.

Girl flung from ride suffered serious head injury

FAIRGROUND BOSS GETS £10,000 FINE

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A fairground operator has been fined £10,000 after a schoolgirl was flung from a ride and suffered a serious head injury at a West Midlands park.

The 11-year-old was thrown from the moving car when the lap belt failed and she suffered a five-centimetre head wound that required ten stitches, as well as cuts and bruises, a court heard.

Robert Wilkinson, of Walsall, who holds fairgrounds for families across the region, was the owner of the DJ jump ride at Pye Hayes Park in Birmingham.

The city's magistrates last week heard that the girl was unable to put on a lap belt that may have prevented her being thrown from the ride.

The accident happened on April 19, 2009, and the Health and Safety Executive launched an investigation into how the ride had failed.

Their lengthy probe found the lap belts in the ride cars were poorly maintained and most had been so badly damaged they were unusable.

Breaching

Wilkinson, aged 55, of Lime Lane, Pelsall, pleaded guilty to breaching health and safety regulations and was ordered to pay a £10,000 fine and £2,708 costs.

HSE inspector Gareth Langston said: "This was a preventable incident that resulted in a serious injury to a child. Fairground operators must make sure not only that the main system to keep passengers safely in the ride is properly serviced, but also that back-up can be used for long enough to stop the ride safely if the main system fails."

Last year a fairground operator had to pay out £20,000 after a ride failed, sending a carriage hurtling through the air and leaving a woman wheelchair-bound.

Band to play on home turf



College band Funked Up have reached the finals of the UK World Skills Competition. Back, from left, Tom Southall, Liam Bridgen, Calum Harrison, all aged 17, with, Rosanna Lefevre, 16, Charlie Stackhouse, 19, and Mica Burton, 18

A Walsall band is dreaming of stardom after making it through to the final of a national competition.

Funked Up will be on home turf at the Walsall College campus in Littleton Street West on May 26.

The band, all students from the college, qualified after impressing industry professional judges at the regional heats of the UK World Skills Competition held at Derby College.

During the competition each

band had to select and rehearse two songs and were assessed on communication, difficulty, dynamics, musicality, presentation and professionalism.

Vocalist Mica Barton said: "We are so pleased to have made it through to the final against some very tough competition."

"Taking part in the World Skills competition has been a great experience and has definitely given me more confidence."

Woman and boy held over blaze death

A woman and a teenage boy have been arrested after the body of a man was discovered by firefighters attending a blaze in Walsall.

The body of 32-year-old Garry Ford was found in Bloxwich Road, Leamore, earlier this month.

West Midlands Police have confirmed a 33-year-old woman and a boy aged 14 had been arrested in connection with the inquiry.

They have been interviewed by detectives and released on police bail pending further investigations.

Mr Ford's body was found by firefighters attending a blaze on wasteland behind the Somerfield shop and adjoining Texaco Service Station in Bloxwich Road on May 4. He had suffered serious burns but a post mortem to determine the cause of death proved inconclusive.

Specialist forensic tests are now being carried out and police said it could be weeks before the exact cause of death is known.

Mr Ford lived in Guild Avenue, close to where his body was found. His family were too upset to speak about the tragedy.

Detectives are treating his death as unexplained and launched an appeal for witnesses. Det Insp Bob Bradford says police are still piecing together how Mr Ford met his death and were looking into his personal background. He has appealed for anyone with information to come forward.

"The scene is just off Bloxwich Road, which would have had a fair number of motorists using it around 6pm on May 4," he said.

He also appealed for three youths who were walking along the pavement near to the scene at around 6pm to 6.15pm to contact police.

"They may well have seen something significant and we would stress that they could be vital witnesses," he said.

Anyone with information should call Force CID at Bloxwich on 0345 113 5000.

Labour out of leadership race

The Labour group in Walsall has effectively ruled itself out of the running for the leadership of the local authority. The party said it had not been able to come to an agreement with the Liberal Democrats and would "continue its campaign to become the majority party on Walsall Council".

Talks have been taking place between all three main parties after the local elections on May 5 left no one party in overall control.

Labour made eight gains, leaving them with 26 seats, just behind the Conservatives who have 28. Five Liberal Democrats also hold seats and there is one Independent.

Labour leader Tim Oliver met Liberal Democrat leader Ian Shires last night.

Councillor Oliver said: "Walsall Labour won its biggest overall vote in 15 years after voters supported our message and rejected the Tory-led coalition Government's policies of savage and unfair cuts in jobs and services."

"Prior to the meeting with the Lib Dems we made it clear that our priority was to take this mandate and defend crucial areas such as education, community safety and social services."

The proposals put on the table by the Liberal Democrats though amounted to changes in councillors' day-to-day working within the authority, while offering to deal with fundamental services on an 'issue by issue' basis."

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115 thefts of metal reported

Metal thieves struck in Walsall 115 times last month, new figures claim. Lead flashing from houses and cars destined for the scrapyard were just some of the items targeted by thieves as police continue to wage their war on metal thefts.

Thirty-six of the crimes were recorded in the Moxley and Darlaston area alone, where thieves stole lead flashing from houses. This has prompted bosses at Walsall Housing Group to vow to replace flashing with synthetic lead, which will be of little value to thieves.

Two men appeared in court last week charged with stealing three motor vehicles which were destined for the scrapyard.

Other metal thefts saw the historic Barr Beacon War Memorial hit as thieves stripped half of the copper from the roof.

Police officers in Walsall have insisted they were continuing to crack down on metal thefts.

In March, there were 122 metal-related crimes reported in Walsall. Ch Insp Paul Farley, from Walsall Police Station, said: "Dealing with metal thefts is one of our main priorities at Walsall and we will continue to tackle illegal scrap dealers and thieves."

"We will also be working with colleagues in Wolverhampton and Staffordshire to ensure we have a robust approach when dealing with this crime."

Force-wide Operation Steel is currently in place and has seen the police work with scrap metal merchants and partners to try to reduce the problem.

Museum clothes in the spotlight

Walsall Museum's clothing collection will come under the spotlight at a talk last month.

The Lichfield Street museum has a vast collection of women and children's clothing from the mid 19th century onwards.

The illustrated talk is on May 26 at 1.30pm. Places are limited and advance booking is essential on 01922 653116 or emailing museum@walsall.gov.uk.

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Young fliers marking cadets' 70th birthday



Cadets pay tribute to the war dead on Remembrance Sunday

For generations the Air Training Corps has been a springboard for cadets aspiring to make it into the Royal Air Force.

It has provided plenty of opportunities for young people to learn life changing skills.

To mark the organisation's 70th anniversary the 425 Aldridge Squadron is sharing these old photographs featuring activities from years gone by at the base at Station Road.

The Air Training Corps is a youth organisation which promotes good citizenship and team work among 13 to 20-year-olds with recruits for this branch mainly coming from the Aldridge, Walsall and Great Barr areas.

Archives

Images found in the archives include a black and white photograph of a sports trophy presentation held in Stafford in 1945.

To this day cadets in the Staffordshire Wing of which 425 Squadron is a part compete in sports competitions at Stafford. Another photograph features a precision parade in 1964.

In another picture two cadets can be seen taking part in gliding training in Shropshire also in the mid 1960s.

Squadron Adjutant Sarah Morris-Bates said: "We believe the corps has been going since 1941. We know it wasn't among the first 50 ATCs to be set up. We have heard

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from a gentleman who was at the very first meeting of the Aldridge group and he recalls it was in the early 1940s.

"A lady who came in to see us explained she met her husband in the 1960s when he was attending the ATC and she brought his photo album to show us."

"She also brought her son along and her grandson because he never met his granddad who has sadly passed away and she wanted them to learn a bit more about his life as a young man."

Society

"That was quite nice for us as well as we got to see some images which we hadn't been shown before."

Despite changes in society where other youth groups in the Walsall area may have struggled to recruit members the squadron continues to flourish and attract teenagers.

There are currently 48 cadets enlisted in its ranks.

Recent successes for the squadron, which is part of the 1,100-strong Staffordshire Wing, includes taking the overall runners up spot at the Staffordshire ATC athletics day after winning first places in the junior men and boys competitions.

Aldridge member Luke Horobin, aged 18, has also been appointed the Lord Lt Cadet for this year which will see him take part in official events including Royal Visits.



Cadets of the Air Training Corps prepare for their flight training sessions



At the front are Callum Prosser, 15, Ryan Wallace, 16, and Sam Campbell, 14, celebrating with other members of the Aldridge Squadron.



Cadets glider training in the 1960s



Aldridge Air Training Corps in 1964

SAS man on sex charges

An SAS soldier originally from Walsall is to stand trial accused of sex offences against children, including 12 rapes. Ian Tuckley, 31, served with the 22-regiment of the elite force.

He spent time in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now he has been accused of 31 offences against the victims.

He is on remand in custody after being arrested by police at the end of last year.

Tuckley's identity can be revealed after a judge lifted a reporting restriction order which had been applied for by the Ministry of Defence.

Tuckley will stand trial with his brother-in-law Martin Finney, 40, of Walsall.

The pair, who have pleaded not guilty to the charges, will go on trial at Worcester Crown Court on June 6.

The SAS veteran is charged with 31 child sex offences which include 12 rapes, four indecent assaults and three counts of causing a child to watch sexual activity. He is also charged with 21 counts of making indecent photographs of children.

Finney will stand trial on 24 sex offences, including rape and sexual assault.

He is also accused of having "intentionally administered a substance (Etonox gas)", to a victim, "with the intention of stupefying or overpowering" them.

Speed signs stop working

Flashing speed warning signs put up on a busy Walsall road where two brothers died in a car crash have stopped working for the second time in a month.

Residents say two £3,000 signs, which flash reminders of the 30mph speed limit in West Bromwich Road, Delves, have been broken more often than operational.

They were installed after the deaths of Asif David, aged 23, and Naveed Aslam, 18, in November. Walsall Council said it was working hard to iron out sign battery pack problems.

Keith Stone, Walsall Council assistant director for neighbourhood services, said: "We can appreciate residents' frustrations when the signs fail to work but we ask them to bear in mind that this is a new combination of technologies used in these particular signs."

He added: "The council is working closely with the signs' manufacturers to iron out the technical difficulties."

Runners wanted to join 10k race

Runners are invited to enter the annual Aldridge 10K road race on June 12. A 4.3K fun run will start at 10.30am, followed by the main race at 10.45am.

The event, which is in its 20th year, will be based at the Aldridge Cricket and Hockey Club, at The Green.

For more information, or to enter, visit www.alldridgecricketclub.co.uk or call 07971 016865.

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£9.2m to improve river Tame

A £9.2 million project to improve the water quality of the River Tame by installing a huge underground tank is almost complete.

Severn Trent Water has been working on it at Willenhall Sewage Treatment Works.

Workers have been busy building a tank at the Anson Road plant, measuring 570ft long and 65ft wide, to provide extra capacity for storm water sewage

during heavy rainfall. The Tame flows through Oldbury, Wednesbury, Bescot, Willenhall, Bilston and Wednesfield among other areas. The new tank, which is almost completed, is split into 12 separate units and will reduce annual spills of storm water sewage into the River Tame by nearly 80 per cent. It has a total capacity of 20,000 square metres.

Simon Cocks, waste water services director at Severn Trent,

said: "This is a great investment as it protects the water quality in the River Tame and provides extra capacity for excess waste water during heavy rainfall which is particularly important as the effects of climate change are felt."

The tank has been built by civil engineering specialists North Midland Construction plc and the project has the backing of the Environment Agency.

Model in the semis

An aspiring model who attends Walsall College has made it through to the semi-finals of a national competition. Natacha Gohagen, aged 19, of Wolverhampton, will compete against scores of other beauties in the British Top Model contest.

In the previous round of the competition, the Walsall College GCSE student, of Dunstall Hill, Wolverhampton, finished sixth out of 25 competitors, racking up 132 votes. Details of the final of the contest are due to be

announced at a later date. Miss Gohagen said: "I'm thrilled to get through to semi-finals and I hope that lots of people from across Wolverhampton will vote for me to get me through to the final."

The overall winner will be given the opportunity to take centre stage at the World Supermodel Competition, and the chance to front some well-known British brands.

To vote for Natacha, visit: www.britishtopmodel.com

Parking is blamed for trade losses

Jobs have been axed at a Walsall firm – with the boss blaming new double yellow lines on the road outside for a loss in business.

Two staff have gone at Direct Security Systems Midlands, Willenhall. Managing director Brian Smith blamed new parking and loading restrictions brought in for the £30 million Morrisons supermarket in Wood Street.

He said changes prevented the Doctors Piece firm taking deliveries in office hours and stopped customers pulling up outside.

Mr Smith said, despite Walsall Council agreeing to introduce a lay-by with 10 minutes parking time nearby, fewer passing customers called.

"I have had to lose two of my counter staff since the arrival of Morrisons and the new parking arrangements were made," he said. "With regards to our customers and parking, they have to cross two busy roads with their purchases."

Orders

"They can pull up to make their orders, but if they stay any longer than 10 minutes then they get hit with a parking ticket. As a result we are losing trade to rivals in Wolverhampton."

The firm, established in 1982, sells security alarms and employs 13 people.

Willenhall South councillor Carl Creaney said: "I hope Brian does stick it out. I know he has concerns about the effect of Morrisons on older businesses. But some of the problems in Willenhall are to do with property owners living in other parts of the country and being unaware of the new retail opportunities here."

The Morrisons development included a reconstruction of the traffic island at Leve Lane and Doctor's Piece. Parking restrictions aimed to prevent highways hazards.

It has been built on the site of the former Yale lock factory – demolished in 2009 to make way for the store, a petrol station and a 541-space car park.

A consortium of developers including Dransfield Properties Ltd, Gallaghers Estates and Countrywide Properties are involved in the regeneration of the town centre. The project has required the acquisition of 30 land interests including the former Yale factory.

Lock firm takes over company

Willenhall security firm Assa Abloy has expanded by acquiring a French fire door manufacturer.

Assa, which owns the Yale brand and supports the jobs of hundreds of workers in the traditional lock-making industry, has taken over Portefeu, the French market leader in customised fire doors, in an undisclosed deal. The move follows the group's acquisition last year of Walsall lock maker Paddock.

Johan Molin, president and chief executive of Assa Abloy, said the acquisition strengthened the group's footprint.

Created in 1936 and headquartered in Romilly sur Andelle, Portefeu has 245 employees and sales of £26.7m in 2010.

Exhibition on homes

A house and home exhibition will take place in Walsall on May 26. People can find out about buying, selling, renting, mortgages, gardening and renovating homes at the event at The Crossing at St Paul's, Darwall Street, from 12.30-5pm. For more information, call Carol on 01922 707595.

Fete to help hospice

Blakenall United Reformed Church, Blakenall Lane is staging a fete for Walsall Hospice on June 18 which will include a tombola and stalls with cakes and plants. Tickets are 30p in advance from members of the congregation or 50p on the door.

Police jettison red tape

Police in the West Midlands have ditched a £250,000-a-year system under which they had to fill in a form every time they stopped and spoke to someone seen acting suspiciously.

Officers with the force, which is trying to save £125 million over four years, no longer have to fill in one of the "stop and account" forms whenever they stop someone.

But the Chief Constable, Chris Sims, insisted the move would not have "any detrimental impact on either the prevention or detection of crime".

In a report to a meeting of the police authority, he said: "Police activity will continue and where officers' suspicions about a person are confirmed, it is likely they will go on to be subject of further investigation, a stop and search and/or arrest."

The report said at the system's peak, when all police encounters were recorded on paper forms, the cost to the force was more than £250,000 a year in printing and data handling costs.

The cost in officers' time was greater still, but a change, had reduced that bill.

Launch of lunch

A lunch club is being launched in Walsall this week.

Pensioners will be offered a two-course meal for £3.50 at the Brownhills and Walsall Wood Fellowship Centre in Beacon Way on May 20 from noon.

The club is being supported by the borough's Taste for Life scheme, run by Caldmore Housing Association, Age UK Walsall, and Walsall Housing Regeneration Agency.

More than 130 people have signed up for the scheme. Call 0121 568 3973 for information.

Agency staff cost for hospital at £400,000

The monthly cost of hiring agency staff at Walsall Manor Hospital has increased to more than £400,000, despite a bid to hire more workers.

It shelled out £436,000 on agency staff in March, up £28,000 in a month. In September last year spending on agency staff was £361,000, a figure health chiefs predicted would be lowered by hiring more permanent staff.

Woman is attacked at station

This is the victim of a brutal robbery that took place on a train between Walsall and Birmingham.



Letitia Murphy

Letitia Murphy, aged 40, was left with broken bones and damaged nerves in her face when she was attacked after boarding the train at Walsall station.

Her attacker got on a few stops later at Tamebridge Parkway at around 11.45pm on April 7. Ms Murphy was on her way home to Birmingham city centre after working as an eastern European interpreter in Walsall.

She was dozing on the train when she felt her handbag being tugged away from her at Aston station just before midday. After trying to pull it back from the thief, she was punched several times to the side of her face and head, breaking bones in her face and damaging nerves which resulted in reconstructive surgery and metal plates in her head.

CCTV images show Letitia collapsing on Aston platform and the attacker running off chased by a conductor, on platform two. The attack was a black man in his late teens to early 20s, about 5ft 10in tall and of medium build. He was wearing a black shiny jacket, red hat and was carrying a bag.

The attacker was dropped off at Tamebridge in a silver Audi A4, four-door saloon car.

British Transport Police are now investigating the crime and appealing for any information or witnesses.

Anyone with information can call free on 0800 40 50 40, quoting incident reference BS of 09/05/2011.

Agency staff now account for nearly 4.5 per cent of the total pay bill, up from just under four per cent in September.

The trust's overall outlay on temporary workers was just over £4.3 million for 2010/11, according to a report going before its board of directors last week. In it, director of human resources Sue Wakeman said expenditure on medical agency staff had increased by £117,000 over the year.

Most of this went on unplanned care, while nursing agency costs have decreased by £41,000 to £137,000.

Ms Wakeman said: "Workforce performance reporting over the last year has enabled the trust to identify areas to focus attention, particularly agency spend, sickness absence, appraisal rates and mandatory training figures."

Attention

"Overall, improvements have been achieved across all areas of concern with the exception of agency spend which continues to be variable. Investigatory work is ongoing to address this."

A recruitment day was held at the hospital last November for jobs including nursing posts.

Around 300 people turned up to inquire about the 100 jobs on offer.

Over the whole financial year agency workers accounted for 3.89 per cent of the total wages bill.

She added in the report that the trust's sickness level stands at 4.64 per cent for the year, above the annual target of 4.5 per cent but also representing a 0.44 per cent reduction last year.

It was revealed in July that the trust running Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital spent £10m in 2009/10 on agency workers.

Bosses at the hospital set up a staff bank made up of hundreds of workers to reduce costs in April, and spent an average of £466,000 a month in the first three months.

Schoolboys take the honours



Hatherton Primary School's proud captain Connor Fellows, front, coach Susan Braddock and team-mates celebrate winning the Walsall area finals

Garth Bale and Wayne Rooney had better watch their backs as youngsters at a Walsall primary school have won a top tournament.

The team from Hatherton Primary School are still celebrating after winning the Walsall under-12s area finals.

Youngsters from the Bloxwich Lane school defeated a string of teams to make their way to the finals of the competition, where they eventually ran out 1-0 winners over St Michael's

School. Teacher Sue Rochford, who watched the match, said: "The final was a very exciting match with some very good defending on show."

"Adam Wilkes was named the man of the match. They were all very impressive though with a sportsman-like attitude from both teams."

The team was awarded a trophy which will now takes pride of place in the school's trophy cabinet.

Players from Years 5 and 6 took part in the matches.

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Ban for man over the limit

A man who was found behind the wheel while more than twice the drink-driving limit in Walsall said he was driving his friend home as he was even more drunk.

Jobless Shane Rees, aged 35, of Reservoir Street, Alumwell, who admitted drink-driving, driving without insurance and driving without a licence, was seen by police officers at 2.20am on April 29 driving "erratically" in Green Lane, Walsall.

Mr Sarbjit Lalli, defending at Walsall Magistrates Court last week, said Rees had borrowed his friend's car to drive the friend home as he was too drunk to drive. Rees considered himself driving as "the lesser of two evils".

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, said police pulled Rees over at the junction near Green Lane and Hospital Street. He said: "He smells of alcohol and tells police he had had one or two pints."

"He is taken to Bloxwich police station and the level of alcohol in his breath is 89mg per 100ml of breath. The limit is 35mg, so he is twice the legal limit."

Rees was disqualified from driving for 22 months and ordered to pay a fine of £100 for drink-driving, a £100 fine for driving without insurance, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

He was also offered a drink-driver's rehabilitation course which, upon completion, could reduce the length of his disqualification.

Vow to keep fighting drugs

Police in Walsall have vowed to continue the fight against drug dealers who create misery on the borough's streets.

Officers said they were going to build on the good work started last month as part of Operation Eliminate.

To date, 27 people have been arrested in the hard-hitting operation for an array of drug offences, including conspiracy to supply Class A, supplying Class A and money laundering.

A total of 20 raids have also been carried out by officers, who recovered £22,000 cash, \$3,000 cash, quantities of heroin, crack cocaine, steroids and cannabis and a number of offensive weapons.

There have also been two evictions, 19 referrals seeking possession or eviction of tenants, and 19 criminal anti-social behaviour orders.

Ch Insp Sally Holmes said work would now continue.

Cadets in drill win

Walsall Royal Marine Cadets have been declared the national drill champions for 2011. The group took part in the annual competition against more than 300 cadets from across the UK at HMS Raleigh, Torpoint, Devon. The award for best guard commander went to L/Cpl Shaun Moriarty and the cadets also picked up a trophy for best arena display. Lieutenant Voirrey Wagstaff, Walsall commander for the Royal Marines Reserve, said: "This is an excellent achievement."

First visits a success

The first visit by Walsall students to an outdoor education centre under new management has been hailed a success. The trip involved around 42 pupils from St Francis of Assisi School in Aldridge.

The pupils stayed at the Bryntysilio Outdoor Education Centre, near Llangollen, in North Wales.

The future of the centre, which is used by thousands of Walsall pupils

each year, had been in doubt. But it was taken over by Widehorizons Outdoor Education Trust in partnership with Walsall Camp Trust.

The group spent their time mountaineering, canoeing and raft building.

Anthea Cooper, head of centre at Bryntysilio, said: "It was very exciting to see St. Francis of Assisi pupils here after all of the uncertainty."

Jobs as hotel grows

New jobs are to be created at a hotel near the M6 in Walsall which is being extended under an £800,000 redevelopment project to cope with rising demand for tourist accommodation.

Eight new posts will be added at Premier Inn, Bentley Road North, when the building work is completed next month in a move aimed to boost the area's tourism and leisure

economy. The company said an extra eight rooms are being built at the site due to an ever-increasing demand for rooms at the premises in the grounds of the Bentley Green Restaurant off the A454 Black Country Route's Anson Junction. The accommodation is scheduled to open on June 27. As a result of the extension the new jobs will be created in the reception and housekeeping teams.

Addict stole £79 of razors

A thief stole four packets of razors from a Darlaston shop before dumping them in a rubbish bin, a court heard.

Steven Price, aged 29, took the Gillette razors worth £79.95 from Boots, King Street, and put them in the bin when he realised he was being followed.

Price, of Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week and admitted shoplifting from the store on May 3.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, said the store's security officer saw Price taking the razors before heading out of the shop.

He said: "The security officer follows him out and a security guard follows them both. He is aggressive outside the store and throws the razors in the bin. The police are called and they retrieve the razors."

Price was tested negative for Class A drugs, the court heard, but Mr John Walker, defending, said he is a recovering heroin addict.

Mr Walker added Price was struggling with mental health issues, and was "at a loss to understand" why he was shoplifting.

He added: "He accepts fully his responsibilities. He has had a very long struggle to rid himself of Class A drugs."

Price was ordered to pay an £85 fine, £85 costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Youngsters raise funding

A team of young people from Brownhills have helped raise more than £300 for local community projects. The 16 to 25-year-olds have been holding fundraising events as part of a 12-week training programme in a Prince's Trust team project.

The programme aims to raise young people's self-esteem and is managed by Walsall police and run from Brownhills police station, in Chester Road.

Over the past five weeks, the team has raised money by organising a bag packing day at a supermarket and a charity car wash. They were also involved in a sponsored jail break.

They were taken to Stone in Stafford and had to find their way back to Brownhills police station without any money or mobile phones.

The group made it back in three-and-a-half hours. The team will use the money to decorate Pelsall Youth Centre, Church Road.

49 arrests in new blitz on criminals

A total of 49 known criminals have been arrested in Walsall in a new crackdown.

The operation, launched in April, targets known offenders and those on police bail. Officers are checking that bail conditions are being met and they have carried out search warrants.

So far, 33 people have been locked up for failing to appear at court, eight for breaching curfews, and eight as a result of forensic inquiries.

Village festival will feature live bands

A live music festival is to be launched in a Walsall village. Pelsall Music Live will take place this summer, with hopes of it becoming an annual event to boost the local economy.

The free festival will take place on July 30 at Pelsall Common, with hundreds of people expected to turn up. After just two months in the planning, it will feature two marquees with scores of live bands, 30 stalls for charities and businesses and amusements such as bouncy castles.

Organiser Councillor Garry Perry said: "We have always talked about doing something like this and adding another event to the social calendar of Pelsall."

"It will be a free event and I think we're talking hundreds rather than thousands when it comes to the attendance. But it is a very exciting time - this is something the whole community can enjoy and it will really put Pelsall on the map."

The festival will run from 11am until 6pm and will not feature any alcohol.

"We have taken residents into consideration and will be stopping at 6pm but it is hoped a few local pubs will showcase some more of the bands in the evening, when people will be able to get a drink," Councillor Perry added.

Fingers

"Fingers crossed it will become an annual event, that will get people out in Pelsall."

"This will be the first event of this kind to be held here and I am very much excited at the opportunity of working alongside so many talented musicians with a repertoire to suit many a taste."

On the day, visitors to the Electric Pride marquee will be treated to an eclectic mix of electric rock, pop and indie from popular local bands.

Those in search of a more mellow listening experience will find what they are looking for in the Vanessa Bridge Acoustic Marquee, where students from schools feature on the same bill as established professional folk, blues, and country artists.

The event has been organised by Pelsall Pride Partnership, musicians and Walsall Council.

A non-refundable charge of £10 is payable in advance for private stall holders but charities are exempt. Contact Councillor Perry on 07960 503 512 for further details.

Pupils parade their talents



Tommo's Got Talent winner Courtney Brevitt, aged 12, with judges Bradleigh Horton, 16, Nathan Patel, 15, Shannon Edwards, 15, and Ravi Bennings, 16

Pupils at a Willenhall school used their talents to raise £300 for a children's hospice.

More than 30 youngsters between 12 and 18 competed in the Tommo's Got Talent competition at St Thomas More Catholic School, in Darlaston Lane. The 20 acts were made up of youngsters singing, dancing and even drumming for Acorns Children's Hospice. Around 200 pupils watched

the show which was organised and judged by year 11 pupils. The competition was won by 12-year-old Courtney Brevitt who sang You've Got The Love by Florence And The Machine. She won £10.

Carole Quigley, assistant data and publicity manager, said: "The pupils enjoy showing what they can do and the pupils chose which charity they wanted to support."

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Five year pet ban for neglect

A woman who failed to ensure her cats and dogs were being properly looked after when she moved away from her Willenhall home without them has been banned from keeping animals for five years.



Jessica Lote

Jessica Lote told the RSPCA she was let down by a friend who promised to keep an eye on her pets after she fled to Scotland to escape a violent relationship last year.

Last week the 23-year-old was banned from keeping and owning animals, ordered to wear an electronic tag for three months under a curfew order and told to pay £500 costs after the pets were left in unsatisfactory conditions.

The mother-of-two, formerly of Stretton Road, New Invention was convicted at Walsall Magistrates Court in her absence in September last year, but sentencing was delayed as she now lives in Glasgow.

Mrs Amy Bedford, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, told the court neighbours reported the pets were alone at the property. During several visits the charity's Insp Rob Crutchley had to feed the Staffordshire bull terrier, the German Shepherd puppy and two cats through the letterbox between February 25 and March 3 last year.

There were also five tropical fish at the property. Unemployed Lote was convicted of three charges of failing in her duty as a person responsible for an animal to ensure welfare, under section nine of the Animal Welfare Act.

Mrs Bedford said: "The defendant was warned on several occasions."

She said all the animals were eventually seized by the RSPCA and rehomed after the garden was found to be covered in faeces and no fresh drinking water left out for the animals.

Good deed for disabled man

A disabled man whose mobility scooter was stolen in what was described as a despicable crime has been given a new one by a kind-hearted donor.

Father-of-five John Richardson, aged 52, of Brownhills, said the kind gesture has restored his faith in human nature.

People were left outraged by the theft, in which raiders stole the £500 scooter from Mr Richardson's front garden and loaded it into a white van.

Mr Richardson, who suffers from degenerative bone disease, said without his scooter he could not leave his home. The donor wants to remain anonymous.

Mr Richardson said: "It's incredible. I'm over the moon. I got a call from the police and they put me in touch with this man. It's picked me up a bit."

"I couldn't afford another one and haven't been able to get out of the house since it happened."

Rabbit advice day

Pet owners can attend an RSPCA rabbit awareness open day in Walsall this month at Aldridge Community Centre on May 23. Becky Weeks, welfare co-ordinator at Walsall RSPCA said: "We look forward to welcoming rabbit owners at our open day." Call 0845 2723570.

Orchestral artistry of maestro Robert

As a youngster, multi-skilled musician Robert Emery could hear a song on the television and instantly replay it on the piano in his Walsall home without any musical training.

At the age of seven he learned to play the piano and honed his talents performing with orchestras across the Midlands.

Now the 28-year-old pianist, conductor and writer tours the world and is the musical director for singing star Russell Watson, who appeared at Birmingham's Symphony Hall last weekend.

Mr Emery grew up in Pelsall and attended St Michael's Primary School and Blue Coat Church of England Comprehensive School before studying at the Royal College of Music in London for four years.

As he accompanies Russell on his UK tour, Mr Emery has remembered where it all began.

Mr Emery, who now lives in Twickenham, West London, says: "When I was younger I used to watch Top Of The Pops."

Family

"We had a family piano and I would play the songs I had just heard without any training. I could just do it, I don't know how."

"I went on to take piano lessons and to do concerts across the West Midlands. I remember the audiences being lovely and very supportive."

"Apart from the Royal Albert Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall is my favourite venue in the UK."

"It's where I made my first professional appearance when I was about eight."

Mr Emery has made two solo piano albums, performed for members of the royal family and has worked with the likes of Katherine Jenkins and Lamar.

He recorded his debut album *Enlightening* at the age of 16, and in 2002 and 2003 he toured 32 different venues across the UK with the concert series *Robert Emery: A Classical Experience*.

His second album, *Robert Emery: Live in Concert*, also led to him performing at many prestigious events around the country, including the International Arts Festival at the NEC Birmingham and Stafford Music Festival.

He won the regional finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year in two successive years and gained the Fraser Wood Mayo and Pinson award, representing the West Midlands in the Leeds Millennium Festival of the Performing Arts.

Mr Emery also gave a special recital for members of parliament in Westminster Hall and was assistant musical director for the West End production of *Zorro*, musical director for the West End show *Betwixt*, and associate musical supervisor for the world premiere of *Dallebach Kari das Musikal* in Switzerland.

He has also performed with the Birmingham Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra and is now creative director of his own orchestra Arts Symphonic and chief executive of



Robert Emery, from Walsall, who is the musical director for Russell Watson

The Arts Group Ltd. Last year, he orchestrated for the Royal Variety Performance.

It was also in 2010 when Mr Emery learned singer Russell was looking for a musical director and went to his Cheshire home where the pair began working together by recording a performance for Channel 4's *Chris Moyles' Quiz Night*.

Determined

"I was ecstatic. He's such a passionate and determined man. We have an awful lot of laughs on stage,"

"We really both enjoy the work we do and always get a standing ovation. It's not just classical, for example we do songs from the shows."

The pair have travelled to Miami and Singapore, and Mr Emery is

looking forward to travelling to Japan for further concerts later this month. But despite performing in front of huge audiences, he said he never gets nervous.

He adds: "I've been doing this since I was seven. I'm one of the only people I know that doesn't get nervous."

"There's no difference to me in performing to 15 or 15,000 people. I like to drink Lucozade to keep my energy levels up and wear gloves before playing the piano to keep my hands warm."

"This is my life and I adore it. Travelling the world has been amazing. I love seeing the smiles on people's faces. I do a lot of travelling. In February I caught 24 flights. You end up living in the airport and hotels."

Mr Emery, who was also part of



Musician Robert Emery, 23



Singing star Russell Watson

Aldridge Youth Theatre as a youngster, said he was also in the process of writing two musicals.

He says: "I can't reveal too many details but one of the them is based on a very successful American blockbuster and the other one is based on a pop group from the 1960s."

Industry

"I am proud of everything I do. There are a lot of people who don't make it in this industry."

Three months ago, through his company Arts Festivals Ltd, which specialises in creating unusual live events, Mr Emery also devised, directed, arranged, co-orchestrated and conducted the Basel Symphony Orchestra for a joint concert with the Europe-wide famous band The Lovebugs in Switzerland.

Library cafe may open soon

The cafe at Bloxwich's £1.2 million revamped library could soon be open for business after staff in a department at Walsall Council decided to run it themselves.

Bosses at the new Bookmark Bloxwich had been unable to find anyone to take on the cafe, leading to fears for the future of the venue.

But more than six months after the revamped library was unveiled in Elmore Row, a new operator has now been found within the council. It is hoped the move will help to improve "life skills" for members of the community.

An agreement has been struck between the council's library service and the social care and inclusion service to professionally run the cafe with support from trainees from Walsall Adult and Community College and local disabled people.

It will give people the chance to develop their skills and boost their work experience.

Chris Cordes, strategic manager for library operations at Walsall Council, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with social care and inclusion and Walsall Adult and Community College."

"We hope to offer a first rate service to our customers while giving other members of the community an opportunity to develop their life skills and employment opportunities."

The aim is to offer indoor and outdoor dining for visitors to the town or to the library. A limited cafe service had been run by volunteers while the search continued for a new operator.

Bloxwich Library was relaunched in September last year after the dilapidated 1950s venue was given a £1.2 million facelift.

Man guilty of flashing women

A man exposed himself in full view of two women as they walked a dog, a court was told.

Jacob Hulme, aged 20, admitted an offence of exposure on recreation land off Villiers Street, Willenhall on February 5.

Mr Kulbir Paul, prosecuting, told Walsall Magistrates Court that the women were in a distressed state after the incident.

Mr Paul said that officers found Hulme a short distance away from the parkland and arrested him. The matter was due to be heard at a trial last week but Hulme, of Howe Crescent, Willenhall, who previously denied the charge, changed his plea to guilty.

Miss Pallo Dharwal, for Hulme said unemployed Hulme had no previous convictions and said he was caught short at the time. Sentencing was adjourned until June 6. Hulme was given unconditional bail.

Police site discussion

A decision on the location of Walsall's new £12 million police station will not be made until the summer. Council leader Councillor Mike Bird says he believes the Challenge Building, Hatherton Street, was the site of choice. Two options are under discussion. One is to demolish the Green Lane station and rebuild on the same site, while the other is to demolish and relocate elsewhere. West Midlands Police Authority, said: "We are expecting a decision later this year."

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Memorial repairs by end of month

Work to repair a vandal-hit Walsall war memorial is expected to be completed within a month, say council chiefs.

Temporary measures have already been carried out at Barr Beacon after it was targeted for a third time in a year by metal thieves.

The bill for repairs is expected to run into several thousands, but Walsall Council is hoping it will be fully restored by the end of the month. Around half the copper was taken in the raid off Beacon Road, Aldridge.

The memorial commemorates men from Staffordshire and Warwickshire who gave their lives in the First World War.

Replacing the metal with another mate-

rial, which will be less attractive to criminals, is being considered.

Countryside services manager Kevin Clements said: "Temporary repairs have already taken place and we are looking to carry out permanent repairs hopefully within the next month."

"As part of the repair programme we are looking at using alternative materials to copper so there is a lot to consider and all needs to be discussed and agreed with the Barr Beacon Trust and Heritage Lottery Fund."

Bosses said the bill could be slightly less than the £15,000 spent on repairs and increased security after two similar raids last year. Council leader Mike Bird

branded those responsible for the theft as "the lowest of the low."

The value of the scrap metal was worth nothing compared with the repairs that were needed. It comes as there are plans to restore Barr Beacon.

In December 2009, the Heritage Lottery Fund gave the green light to a first round application for a £500,000 project at the site.

The council is now working on the second round of the application process.

Anyone with information about the vandal attack at the Barr Beacon memorial should call police on 0345 1135000 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Air cadet heading to Africa

A Walsall teenager will be jetting off to South Africa after winning a national competition made up of physical and mental tasks.

Aldridge School pupil Luke Horobin, aged 18, will now take part in a three-week adventure in South Africa with the Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation charity.

From 20,000 potential nominees, 21 competitors took part in a selection assessment in April.

This followed a programme of physical and mental tasks designed to reflect which participants are worthy of the top award.

Nine finalists were selected in total.

Edward Woods, chief executive of the charity said: "It was a really tough job choosing just nine, but we are very confident that our finalists will make a fantastic team in South Africa."

Luke is an air cadet at 425 (Aldridge) Squadron.

Bungee bungs in £7,000 for hospital

Punters at a Walsall pub were jumping for joy after raising more than £7,000 through a sponsored bungee jump.

Around 300 brave volunteers plunged from the top of the 200ft high bungee set up at The Longhorn pub, in Sutton Road.

The event was held to raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital and Doctor Joe Jaffe Hospital Support Group.

While thrillseekers were doing the bungee jump, pub staff wearing fancy dress were cooking up a barbecue which also raked in more than £500.

Esther Bennett, who has managed the pub for 10 years, said: "I can't begin to tell you how delighted I am that we have raised such a phenomenal amount of money. It's been really hard work, the staff have put everything in to it, but it's been so worth it."

"Everyone got into the spirit of it and it was a really great day."

"All the team has pulled together and got into it, wearing fancy dress and all helping out." She added that the pub would consider repeating the stunt in the future.

The pub had hoped to raise £5,000 for the charities but has smashed its target.



Charity trustee Keith Coulter with the bungee at The Longhorn Pub.



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No chance of council buying Saddlers' site

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Walsall Council has ruled itself out of buying Banks's Stadium – following a call from a millionaire superfan.

The local authority said it wished the club well but would not be buying the stadium and surrounding 17 acres of land at a time when it has to save £70 million.

Council bosses said there was too much pressure on public funds to enter into such an ambitious deal.

Music guru and Saddlers supporter Steve Jenkins wrote an open letter asking the council to buy the stadium to secure the side's future following the team's great escape in League One.

But council leader Mike Bird dismissed the idea.

"Walsall Football Club is a vitally important part of the community," he said. "The council has been very supportive of the club and we wish them well in the future."

Pressures

"But given all of the pressures on public funds there are no plans for us to buy the ground." Despite losing 3-1 to Southampton, Walsall avoided relegation by a point after Dagenham & Redbridge collapsed 5-0 at Peterborough on the final day of the season. Following the dream result, Mr Jenkins, who has worked with Britney Spears, Justin Timberlake and The Stone Roses, urged the council to buy the stadium.

"Not only would that safeguard the club's future and make sure that our team remains at the Banks's but the local authority would gain possession of an increasingly valuable community asset," he said.

"I must say that I have become increasingly disappointed over the past weeks with the knowledge that the club's land is now on general sale."

"This sale brings a serious feeling of insecurity and throws us back to the days of the 1980s when the club's future was in the balance." The Banks's was put up for sale in March and there is said to be interest from potential buyers.

Voices – page 60

No way Jose for relegation

T-shirts dubbing Saddlers boss Dean Smith "The Ginger Mourinho" have been flying off the shelves ever since the miracle-working manager saved the side from odds-on relegation.

Lichfield-based business Soccerprint has produced the cheeky shirts in the aftermath of Walsall FC pulling off The Great Escape over the last half of the season.

Soccerprint released the bright red T-shirts paying homage to the boss and comparing him with world-renowned Real Madrid manager Jose Mourinho within hours of Peterborough's win over Dagenham & Redbridge on Saturday, securing Walsall's safety in League One.

More than 50 shirts have been sold so far as Saddlers fans celebrate their miraculous recovery which began around the Christmas period and means they will continue playing League One football next season.

David Hitchman, of Soccerprint, said: "We are a local company so we knew how popular Dean Smith has been since he took on the job, but we never expected this reaction to the shirts."

"The shirt has been one of our best ever sellers."

"It's fantastic for the fans and if we can give them a little way of keeping up the celebrations then we're delighted." Shirts are available online at www.soccerprint.co.uk.



David Hitchman of Soccerprint T-Shirts in Lichfield is seen with his 'Ginger Mourinho' shirt which was designed in honour of Walsall manager Dean Smith.

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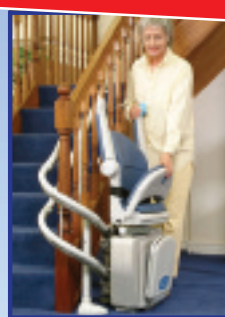
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Sort out 'extreme parking' before it's a disaster for town

Dear Sir,

With the elections over, now is the perfect time to revisit the ill-judged decisions Walsall Council has taken on turning the town into the nation's most extreme car parking regime – before it destroys the superb regeneration of the last decade.

Forget party politics, point scoring and recriminations. All that matters now is that we get this economic disaster sorted as quickly as possible and then move on and forget this sorry episode as quickly as possible. We all make mistakes.

The mark of good character is admitting them and acting to put them right. This parking extremism is ill-thought out and is damaging shops and other traders by making Walsall a "pull over and pick up a paper" exclusion zone.

It's not necessarily the cash itself but the "puff" factor, after all, who carries a bag full of change around in cash when they need to pop out to pick up a prescription or grab that extra pint of milk?

The two parking fines I have received so far are classics of the kind putting people of coming into town.

The first, the day after the new dictat, I was blitzed popping to see my GP in Lichfield Street completely unaware of the new regime. I left my car for less than 15 minutes as I always have done in the One-hour parking zone.

Later that month I collected another fine leaving my car overnight to Sunday on a deserted and outlying car park after a balni and a few beers as I have done for years, not imagin-

ing for a moment that payment was required on a Sunday or indeed that wardens patrol on the Sabbath.

Motorists should pay for the privilege of using their polluting cars. And we all need to use our own legs, bikes and public transport more.

But removing the ability to park with convenience is driving people from the town – at a time when more than ever before we need to do all we can to support the local economy.

I urge people of all political persuasions to take the council to task on this crucial issue.

So please, Walsall Council, sort this disaster before it wrecks the town.

Boris Worrall
Walsall

Thanks for votes

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank all residents and helpers of Rushall, Shelfield and High Heath who supported me in the local May election.

Being a local resident, I will continue to endeavour to do my best to support fellow residents alongside our strong Conservative team of Ron and Rachel to resolve problems and concerns you may have presently and in the future.

In addition to fighting for any available funding to improve our local facilities and area.

Cllr Lorna Rattigan

Cash thanks

Dear Sir

On behalf of Diabetes UK and the 15,000 people living with diabetes in Walsall, I would like to say a huge thanks to the friends and family of Mr John Dutton from Brownhills who generously helped raise £2,000 from his 80th birthday.

We are extremely grateful.

Joanna Oldfield
Regional
Fundraising
Manager

Borough seems to feature on many lists that show negative aspects

Dear Sir,

To find that Walsall comes high on the poverty list comes as no great surprise as the town seems to manage to come high on any list of negative achievement.

As long as so many Walsall residents smoke to excess, drink and use drugs as much as they do, gamble and have children that they can't afford to keep, then there's bound to be children living in poverty.

Nearly 50 years ago the then Children's Officer said that many residents would sooner let their children go short than deprive themselves – things haven't changed.

Why can't people exercise a sense of responsibility and control their behaviour?

A whole group of people infest this Borough who appear to have no social conscience.

They are almost certainly the

same people who drop litter everywhere and wander about the town dressed in scruffy clothes whilst stuffing fast food in to their mouths. They probably also spend hours on their mobile phones and have satellite TV, but above all else they probably don't work and expect us, the taxpayer, to keep them.

Name and address supplied.

Time to dispel all the myths over ME

Dear Sir,

most readers know someone who is affected by Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (M.E.), the chronic, fluctuating illness also known as Post Viral or Chronic Fatigue Syndrome.

As May is M.E. Awareness Month, we hope as many people as possible will display our free posters and leaflets, to help to dispel the myths that still surround this widely-misunderstood illness.

As the poster says: 250,000 people across the UK have M.E. Anyone, of any age, can be affected. Symptoms include overwhelming exhaustion, poor concentration and memory, unrefreshing sleep, headaches, muscle pain and problems with digestion.

For your free copies please send your name, address and the number of posters and/or leaflets you want to: M.E. Awareness, FREEPOST RSAC-SGCT-ZREY, PO Box 2778, Bristol BS1 9DJ or email admin@actionformee.org.uk

Sir Peter Spencer
Chief Executive, Action for M.E.

Charter to improve life in the borough

Dear Sir,

Here is my outline for a charter for Walsall and its citizens: An elected Mayor, which was denied by Councillor Bird.

To employ Councillors by the council paying a wage rather than expenses and allowances to make Council non political thus stopping bickering.

To have Councillors with no criminal records on the council, other than motoring offences.

To have an elected Mayor and nine employees former Councillors and no others.

To have no consultants as managers should be able to do the job they are employed to do.

Brian Parker,
Pelsall.

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES or email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.

Thanks for those who gave support

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank all those Walsall Borough residents who took the trouble to vote for DLP candidates in the recent local council elections, especially the 928 who voted for me in the Blakenall ward.

Although this was not enough to win, the vote was very respectable. We are pleased that an increasing number of people who did vote and probably thou-

sands who did not vote, recognise a choice between Labour, Conservative and Liberal is really no choice at all. All three main Parties support massive cuts in public spending and evidence shows where there are Labour run Councils across the country, the cuts being imposed are no different to Tory and Liberal cuts.

In the 4 years that I have served as a Blakenall ward Councillor, I have met some fan-

tastic local people, many of whom are struggling in different ways to get the help, support and recognition of their problems, concerns and frustrations.

If people do want real change, then they need to recognise that only by working with others and sticking together, will there be any prospect of real change.

Pete Smith
(ex Councillor, Blakenall) Walsall

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Plans for first 'patient hotel' near to Manor

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

The region's first "patient hotel", accommodating guests who need to be near doctors and relatives who want to be close to their loved ones, could be built near Walsall Manor Hospital.

The hotel would cater to "low-dependency" patients who do not require a stay on a ward but need to be near a hospital.

The friends and family of Manor patients could also stay at the facility earmarked for the site of the former Forge and Hammer pub in Rolling Mill Street.

The pub was pulled down at the end of last year after it became a target for metal thieves and vandals.

The patient hotel idea, which could create 30 jobs in Walsall, was originally pioneered in Norway and is now being taken up by Sweden, Denmark and other parts of Europe.

Recovering

It would be aimed at patients staying before or after an operation, relatives of patients who may have to travel long-distance, women recovering after a straightforward childbirth and delegates taking training courses at the hospital.

The proposal for Walsall is for a seven-storey building plus a basement level, with 60 rooms along with amenity spaces.

If approved by council planners, it would tie in with the recent £170 million revamp of the Manor that saw old buildings transformed into modern facilities.

However, it is a private development made by applicant Gora Developments.

Spokesman Bhav Mistry said: "A certain element of care could be provided to the accommodation depending on the type of user."

"The guests of the patient hotel will be self-sufficient and no full-time medical staff or surgical facilities will be provided on site with general trained hotel staff present throughout."

The company claims the hospital can save money by using the hotel instead of costly patient transfers between healthcare facilities. Walsall Manor Hospital would not comment on the proposal.

Head is leader at the double

A Walsall head has taken on leadership of two schools.

Rod Dickson is principal of Bentley Federation of Schools - in charge of Bentley West and King Charles primaries.

The new role includes being at the helm of operations at Bentley West Children's Centre, Monmouth Road.

He took over from previous head Dee Brigstock after being at Croft Community Primary, Birchills. "It's going well here at Bentley. Everyone's been really nice and I'm looking forward to the rest of the year," Mr Dickson said.

Bentley West has a specialist 10-place unit for pupils with hearing impairments, a children's centre providing day care, breakfast and after-school clubs, holiday play schemes and family learning activities. At Croft Primary Sean Davies is interim head for two academic terms.

He was previously at Wheststone Field Primary, Aldridge.



Rod Dickson at Bentley Federation of Schools with pupils Vinnie Lloyd and Chloe Hawkins, both aged 10

Healthy hearts check up

A healthy hearts event will be held in Walsall to carry out tests and raise awareness of the importance of maintaining a healthy heart.

Charity Heart Care is holding the evening on May 24 at its centre in Portland Street, and tests will include those related to blood pressure, urine, lung capacity, cholesterol and glucose levels.

All results will be available on the evening and everyone will be seen by specialists to discuss any queries or concerns. Admission to the event, held from 6.30pm, is £50 per person and all proceeds will go to Heart Care.

For more information about the evening and to book an appointment, call 01922 725050.

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thechronicle

Residents snub new parking bay charges

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

A £28-a-year charge for a once-free car park in Walsall is putting residents off – with just a third of spaces being taken up so far, it has been claimed.

Just 10 drivers have signed up for spaces at the Bentley Drive car park. The site was transformed to include a locked gate and marked bays to provide parking spaces as part of a multi-million pound red route scheme on the Wolverhampton Road in Birchills.

Site owner Walsall Housing Group confirmed it has received requests for less than a third of the spaces.

The busy Wolverhampton Road has been turned into a red route, which aims to cut down on congestion by preventing cars from stopping and creating a new bus lane and parking spaces.

Chairman of Birchills-Reedswood Agenda 21 Chris Jones said residents did not want to have to pay for the privilege of parking by their homes.

"The whole thing has left a bitter taste in the mouth," he said.

Budget

"I know £28 a year doesn't sound like much, but it's still an amount out of a family's budget."

"There is a lot of concern about the effect of the red route. Residents say they were promised a loading bay for deliveries, but this hasn't materialised and they're having to unload shopping and coal deliveries round the corner in Bentley Drive and Lane Avenue instead."

Walsall Housing Group's head of neighbourhood services Gary Brookes said: "Parking bays were painted onto the ground of the gated car park and we have inspected the work. There are 37 spaces, including four disabled bays."

"An annual parking permit costs £28 and includes an allocated space and individual key for the gate."

"So far we have received 10 requests for a space and we encourage other residents to apply. The offer is open to all residents, whether or not they are a WHG customer."

Pleck ward representative Councillor Dennis Anson admitted there had been complaints from residents about the new charge.

"When you consider how much the on-street car parking costs in the town centre, I don't think £28 is unreasonable. The car park is secure and users will have their own keys," Councillor Anson said.

Pass master plans new trip

A Midland pensioner who travelled around England using his bus pass plans to do it all over again.

Ex-Walsall mayor Richard Worrall will retrace his steps to see the impact of cuts.

The 66-year-old, of Burrowes Street, Birchills, wants up to six people to join him.

He said: "The idea of this tour is to revisit the clockwise route taken around England's coasts and borders, hopefully with some improvements here and there, but also with the awareness that cuts in the bus network will also be starting to bite."

"It will be important to find out how far the reportedly significant network cuts around the country will now compromise our ability to do even the tour I did just three years ago."

He is searching for travel companions who have either an older person's or a disabled England concessionary bus pass. Would-be travellers will have to pay for between 12 to 15 nights accommodation along the route.

Anyone interested in joining Mr Worrall should call 01922 641084 or email richardworrall@yahoo.co.uk



Richard Worrall is planning another trip around England using his bus pass.

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Clean up order served on eyesore property

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Walsall Council have served a clean up order on a Bloxwich house where rubbish is piled up in the front garden, windows are smashed and paint splashed across the walls.

Council bosses have now served notices on the owner of the house in Oakland Road, demanding they clean it up.

Mounds of rubbish, including tyres, beer cans and cardboard boxes have been dumped in the garden. All the windows at the property have been smashed, the replacement security boards stolen, and the front door has been kicked in.

White paint has been splashed across the wall. Neighbours said the area was swarming with rats and mice as a result of the mess.

Fly-tipping

One neighbour, who did not wish to be named, said: "The house has been empty for a long time now and the fly-tipping is growing."

"Some of the nearby houses are empty but an elderly lady is right next door and has to put up with this mess. The place is infested with rats."

Environmental chief Paul Rooney, said: "The council continues to take action against land and buildings that adversely affect the public health of an area and nearby residents."

"We served the owner two notices to require the removal of the rubbish and secure the property. Should the owner not comply with either notice, we may then arrange to carry out the work ourselves and then seek to recover the costs incurred."

Council bosses have recently been getting tough on eyesore private properties across the borough.

Geoffrey Westwood was taken to court and ordered to pay £600 last month for failing to tidy up his property in Mill Lane, Walsall.

Andrew Morgan was hit with a £2,000 bill in February for failing to clean up his semi-detached house in Weston Street, Fulbrook.

He was brought before the courts for failing to clear weeds and litter, and for not replacing broken windows and doors.

Rambling on their minds

Anyone in Walsall keen to get outdoors is being invited to put on their boots for a new series of walks aimed to introduce more people to the activity.

Walsall Group of the Ramblers hosted Get Walking Day at the weekend with a short walk which started from the Arboretum Extension car park, Broadway North.

The walk of about 4.5 miles followed a route via the Arboretum to Park Lime Pits nature reserve, in Rushall, and Hay Head Wood before returning via the old golf course.

The free event was organised as part of a national rambling programme to encourage more folks to take up walking.

More than 4,000 people took part last year and this year's Get Walking Day was due to be held on both Saturday and Sunday.

Dick Turton, of Walsall branch, said: "It's an annual event that the national ramblers do."

"We will be running a series of local walks, every fortnight, up until September."

"These will be run either on Saturdays or Sunday evenings."

People can just turn up. More details are on 01922 614389 or 01922 683616.



Bryan and Sandra Phillips with Dick Turton, of Walsall Group of Ramblers.

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thechronicle

It's a plot to grow your own food



St Thomas Close residents Margaret Horney and Ray Pendrey tend to their new allotment in Ryecroft

Green-fingered Walsall residents have been digging in to create a flourishing community allotment.

Members of St Thomas Close Tenants Association, Ryecroft, have taken on a patch of disused land near their flats and are busy filling it with fruit and vegetables.

The plot of land is owned by Walsall Housing Group, which has supported the scheme with a £1,600 regeneration grant towards materials to prepare the site and almost £70 from the estate management team to buy garden tools.

Ray Pendrey, chairman of St Thomas Close Tenants Association, said: "Everyone is really pleased with the new allotment, not least because it allows people who haven't got gardens of their own to try their

hand at something completely different.

"It encourages people to grow fresh produce, get a bit of exercise and get to know their neighbours better."

"We take pride in where we live and already look after the flower borders but this has been a real boost to the area's community spirit."

Walsall Housing Group regeneration programme manager Paul Mason has helped to get the scheme off the ground.

"Allotments are a great place for communities because they bring people together through a shared interest," he said. "They also benefit people's health, encouraging them to keep active."

Gun hint in theft attempt

A would-be thief demanded money from a woman in Willenhall while suggesting he had a gun.

The 52-year-old woman was approached by the man outside Willenhall Social Club in Villiers Street.

He demanded money while concealing his hand inside his hooded jacket pocket.

The victim screamed and the man, who was black, slim and 6ft tall, ran off empty handed.

He was also wearing a blue hooded top, grey jogging bottoms and a grey scarf covering the lower part of his face.

Police said it's believed the same man approached a couple on Villiers Street days after this offence. The incident took place between 11.50pm and 11.57pm on April 17. Anyone with information should call police on 0345 113 5000.

Monika has a winning style

A hairdressing student at Walsall College has won a top award for her skills.

Monika Balu impressed judges from the Francesco Group chain of salons to take the top spot in the Level 3 Hairdressing College Competition.

Students from a number of colleges took part in the event and had to produce a commercial look and present it in a photograph.

The hairdressing hopefuls had to give their model a haircut, colour and finish, and a polished look.

Fellow Walsall College student, Jill Clarke took third place.

Miss Balu, aged 32 from Walsall, said:

"When I was announced as the overall winner, the feeling was just out of this world."

"None of this would be possible without the staff of Walsall Graduate Academy. I can't emphasise enough how much support and encouragement I have been given."



Walsall College hairdressing student Monika Balu

Prize for couple who care

A kind couple from Walsall have been honoured for being good neighbours.

Jamie Harrington and Louise Nicholls, both aged 25, of Churchill Road, Bentley, won the good neighbour category of Walsall Housing Group's community spirit scheme and were rewarded with £1,000 of gardening vouchers.

The couple regularly shop, clean and cook for neighbours Bernard and Joan Aston as well as helping others who live nearby, doing everything from fixing leaks to moving furniture.

Miss Nicholls said: "I can't stand to see people struggle."

The pair, who live with their children Katie, two, and 10-month-old Joshua, have spent their gift vouchers improving the grounds at their block of flats.

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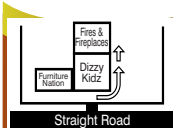
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Homes plan to develop wasteland

An eyesore patch of wasteland in Walsall could be brought to life with plans to build 45 luxury homes on the two-and-a-half acre site.

Developer Kendrick Homes is hoping to build 42 houses and three flats on the land off Victoria Avenue, Bloxwich. Historically, the land was open agricultural fields in the late 1800s, and has remained largely unchanged as residential areas and roads have been built up around it. A spokesman for the developers said it would be "wonderful" for the community.

A building known as Highfield House once stood to the west of the site, but was

demolished and replaced with the residential crescent named Drake Road.

Victoria Avenue itself was constructed before the late 1930s. The homes planned for the site would be a "high quality" mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced homes. If the application is granted, the homes would be aimed at all budgets from first-time buyers to mature families.

Andy Cockayne, design manager for the Tasker Street based firm, said: "This will be wonderful for bringing things back to the community. It's uplifting all round for a local company to be doing something like this. With Bloxwich having excellent local

amenities it makes any new developments in and around the town centre a convenient location to live, this in turn will increase the town's growth due to local spending and will provide a positive boost for shops and businesses."

He added: "We have had initial discussions with the local authority and the feedback has been that they are happy with the plans at the moment."

The size of the homes will vary from one to four bedrooms.

To view or comment on the plans visit the council's website at www.walsall.gov.uk

Children show off their skills

School children showed off their artistic skills by creating a colourful mosaic as a special thank you to a Walsall community project.

Pupils at Mary Elliot School, who have learning difficulties, made a butterfly model from broken tiles.

They presented the gift to June Moriarty, of Beechdale Community Housing, as a thank you for allowing them to take over a bedsit in Hadley Road as part of their life skills studies.

The project is helping to teach them valuable lessons about how to run a home and live independently.

Students from the Leamore Lane school are looking after the flat to learn about painting, decorating and furnishing a home as well as day-to-day tasks such as cleaning, cooking and shopping for groceries.

They are now working on the community garden by the bedsit, planting flowers and growing vegetables.

Mayor has a hire calling for good cause

Dishing out school dinners was one of the tasks the Mayor of Walsall had to take on after he hired himself out to raise money for the borough's hospice.

Councillor Gary Clarke visited Edgar Stammers Primary School, Harden Road, Coalpool, last week, to serve pupils their lunches as part of a fundraiser for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

He said: "It has been absolutely fantastic. I've been serving the children their dinners and have enjoyed it more than them. Working in the community is what it's all about."

"It's something different to do and is for a good cause. We are all serious at times and it's nice to have a bit of fun."

With help from Addison O'Hare solicitors, Councillor Clarke gave people the opportunity to make a bid to buy an hour of his time and has raised about £800 so far.

Councillor Clarke originally planned to work for one day but so many pledges came in that he added an extra day to the timetable.

Also on the Mayor's task list was serving customers at Annette's Pram Shop, Blakehall Lane; washing hair at Chatabox Hairdressers, Leamore Lane; Leamore and dispatching goods at Piquant Limited, Willenhall Lane, Bloxwich.



Walsall's Mayor Councillor Gary Clarke dishes out dinner to Riley Slimm, aged five.



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Centre celebrates being outstanding



Danielle Brisband, Megan Stanley and Emilie Durand, aged four, enjoy the fun at Birchills SureStart, although little Mia Brisband found it a bit too much.

Parents, staff and children from a SureStart Centre in Walsall enjoyed a celebration after being rated as outstanding by Ofsted inspectors.

SureStart in Birchills was visited by inspectors at the end of March and got top marks in all categories. To celebrate, the centre laid on an afternoon of fun to say thank you.

Entertainers, face painting, balloon modelling, fairground rides and a bouncy castle were just some of the treats laid on at the centre in Birchills Street.

Hilary Hastings, programme manager, said: "We decided to hold a fun day so all the parents and children could share in our achievement and to thank them too."

"I think what has made this happen is probably the relationship we have with the parents, children and our partners."

"We are delighted with the result." It all proved a little too much for Mia Brisband, who was comforted as she was taken on a ride. Sure Start centres provide advice and support up until a child is five.

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Bullet holes at toilet block tell grim story



Son Paul, 64, and George Harris, 91, point to the bullet holes in Windmill Lane



The old toilet block in Smethwick which still bears the scars of war

It was the moment that war came to a Black Country street
NAOMI DUNNING reports

THEY look like non-descript chips in a wall but they tell an incredible wartime story of the night a German bomber dived on a Black Country town and riddled it with machine gun fire.

It is thought the bomber was on its way to a raid during the early part of the Second World War when it started shooting at a group of people in Windmill Lane, Smethwick, who were making their way to an air raid shelter.

One young man, Norman Steele, was killed.

A keen amateur historian delving into the story and hoping to find out more about that fateful day, has told how a toilet block in the town still has bullet holes from the attack.

Former Smethwick resident Paul Harris, who now lives in Halesowen, remembers being taken by his father, George Harris now aged 91, to see the bullet holes in Windmill Lane.

Mr Harris, aged 64, said: "I used to live in Smethwick and my father still does. Every time we would walk past he would tell me what he knew about the day and about his time during the war."

"As I understand it the chaps were coming from the Seven Stars pub and heading towards the shelter. It was a 19-year-old who

was killed, he just didn't quite make it to the shelter in time.

"It was only last week when I drove past and I had a look to see if the bullet holes were still there. I was astounded they were still clearly visible."

"These men it seems were making their way to safety and one of them was gunned down in the process. People must remember this event and the bullet holes are a clear reminder."

Chilling

"I would encourage people to go and have a look, it is a chilling reminder of what my parents generation went through."

It is not known exactly which year the raid took place. Documents published by Smethwick Local History Society, describe the raid: "From the Seven Stars public house, three young men ran for shelter into the Windmill Lane public toilets. Norman Steele failed to make it and died under a hail of machine-gun fire from one of the German bombers."

Sandwell Councillor Mahboob Hussain said the toilet blocks had been closed for 20 years.

"The block and the bullet holes may well be there for some time as there are currently no plans to do anything with it," he added.

Mr Harris, of Blagdon Road, whose father served in Egypt with the RAF during the war, was



Second World War German Bomber, a Luftwaffe Heinkel 111; Right: George Harris in uniform, aged 21

prompted to revisit the story after reading Express & Star columnist Peter Rhodes discussing a book due to be published in Germany detailing chilling confessions of German prisoners of war who said they enjoyed massacring innocent civilians.

In 1999 Mr Rhodes interviewed playwright Stephen MacDonald whose show, Not About Heroes, was staged at Stratford. Mr MacDonald remembered as a child warplanes strafing Birmingham's Calthorpe Park.

The German bomber involved in the Smethwick attack was likely to have been a Heinkel 111 or a Dornier 17, the primary Luftwaffe bombers.



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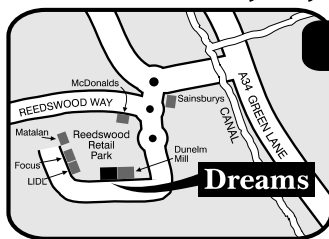
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COMPETITION

Follow Fast Freddie to the Cardiff GP!

Wolves star Fredrik Lindgren is one of the top riders to line up at Cardiff



Win speedway tickets to the Millennium Stadium



FAST and furious family fun, the FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is right up there with the biggest events on the British motorsport calendar – and we're giving 11 lucky readers plus a guest the chance to be there, with one treated to hospitality!

This year's event, which will take place on Saturday, June 25 promises to be part of one of the most competitive GP seasons ever with four world champions – Tomasz Gollob, Jason Crump, Nicki Pedersen and Greg Hancock – among those battling for the title. British rider Chris Harris will be looking to repeat his 2007 winning Cardiff performance as the best riders in the world go full throttle

in front of thousands of fans. In an event that promises to be full of drama and thrills, the riders will reach speeds of up to 70mph while competing on 500cc bikes with no brakes and acceleration that's faster than an F1 car! The fun will start in the Fanzone on St Mary Street and the Grand Prix will start with pre-event entertainment in the Millennium Stadium, followed by the meeting itself and finishing with a fantastic firework display.

We've teamed up with the FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix organisers to give Chronicle readers the chance to enjoy this afternoon of nonstop sporting action and

all you have to do to be in with a chance of winning is answer this simple question: **What is the name of the British Grand Prix rider looking to repeat his 2007 British SGP win at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium?**

Send your answer, along with your name, address and a daytime telephone number to: FIM Doodson British Speedway Grand Prix competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. The deadline for competition entries is Thursday, June 2.

Editor's decision is final and usual terms and conditions apply. If you're not lucky enough to win, tickets can be purchased online via www.speedwaygp.com or by calling 0871 230 7155.

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£300,000 revamp for park

Play equipment, footpaths and trees will be installed at a Walsall park as part of a £300,000 revamp, expected to start later this year.

A detailed programme of work is being drawn up, with the first phase expected to start in the autumn.

More than half of Darlaston's George Rose Park, off Herberts Park Road, is being swallowed up

by the rebuild of Darlaston's Grace Academy.

Improvements include more skate ramps and a zip wire, after consultation with young people showed this was what they most wanted to see installed in the park.

Repairs will be done to paths to tackle drainage and a two metre wide path will be built to create a circular walk.

There will also be a new footpath linking the play area to the skate park. An initial tree planting programme was due to take place in February but was deferred to tie in with the main bulk of the work.

The Friends of Darlaston South Parks are working on improvements alongside Walsall Council's landscape team and Green Spaces.

Police workers putting the gloves on

Many have tried different ways to rid areas of anti-social behaviour.

But two police community support officers in Walsall are trying a fresh approach with Boxercise sessions.

Julie Riley and Rachel Pearce-Plater will soon be holding the sessions – which mixes boxing and exercise – for teenagers across the borough to focus their energies on something constructive.

The lessons will be held at schools, community centres and possibly at a police station, and will be predominantly aimed at children between the ages of 11 and 17.

Peso Riley said she and her colleague, based at Willenhall police station, were trained as Boxercise instructors after ruling out boxing due to it being a contact sport, causing complications with insurance.

She said: "It deals with the self-discipline and respect that comes with boxing." Dates and times will be announced.

Online help

Library users in Walsall can now access encyclopaedias and dictionaries online. Visit www.walsall.gov.uk/walsallinformationzone.



PCsOs have had money from the proceeds of crime act given to them to teach Boxercise to children in Bentley – Julie Riley and Rachel Pearce-Plater

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Bowlers needed

A Brownhills club is hoping to bowl over new members with a warm welcome.

Brownhills and Oak Park bowling club, based at Oak Park, Lichfield Road, is appealing for more members to join its 25-strong membership.

Captain Malcolm Clift, aged 77, of Brownhills, said the group has a good social atmosphere and everyone involved would be delighted to welcome new members.

Mr Clift said: "It's good fun and it gets us out." The group practises on Monday mornings and two teams play league games on a Tuesday afternoon.

Anyone interested in joining can go along when the club meets at 10am on Mondays.



John Griffiths and Iris Hollick, back, with the club captain Malcolm Clift at Brownhills and Oak Park Bowling Club, where they need new members

Groups are celebrating lottery money windfalls

Groups across Walsall are celebrating after receiving thousands in lottery funding.

The Big Lottery Fund has issued grants to 79 community projects across the West Midlands, totalling £623,546.

In Walsall, Paddock-based voluntary organisation United By Bhangra will use £9,730 to deliver community activities exploring Indian culture and Bhangra dance.

It's hoped it will encourage people to exercise and become fitter while promoting an understanding of Indian culture.

At Bentley Drive Primary School, staff were given £9,950 to purchase electronic dance equipment to help pupils get fit and active.

walsallchronicle@
expressandstar.co.uk

They have bought a virtual fitness instructor, called cyber coach, which is being used in classes and at breakfast and after-school clubs.

PE teacher Richard Farley said: "The children love it. They are finding it hard work. Some pupils have already had a go at the disco routine."

Funding

"It's brilliant that we have been awarded this funding. I was shocked we got it, especially with all the cuts." Groups in Sandwell and Dudley have also benefitted from Awards for All grants.

John Taylor, Big Lottery Fund Head of West Midlands region, said: "Today's Lottery cash injection is just what the doctor ordered."

"It will enable 79 groups to make a real difference in improving the well-being of people from across the West Midlands through a range of different activities."

The Awards for All programme offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 to social and environmental projects that will benefit local communities and make a difference to the lives of those most in need.

Voluntary and community groups, schools, health organisations and parish and town councils can all apply.

For details visit www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 08454 102030.

Cancer help

A total of £171 was raised by Ahmadiyya Muslim Women's Association in Walsall during the Royal Wedding. The cash will boost Leukaemia Cancer Research.



Front, Haleema Ali, aged eight, and fellow pupils at Bentley Drive Primary get to grips with their new cyber coach, bought with a £9,950 lottery grant

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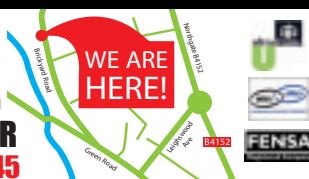
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FREE ADS

my match

women seeking men

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send: CHAT207 To: 65125 (T&C's below).

BLACK attractive female, 34, N/S, seeks genuine single male for friendship, maybe more. Holly. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367021

RAQUEL Asian babe, dark hair, tattooed, single mum, genuine, slim, petite, affectionate, sensitive, seeks special male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366755

CURRY brunette, 21yrs, big eyes, tall, lovely smile, seeks tall dark handsome male 30-50yrs for fun nights out and intimate nights in. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366709

VIVACIOUS strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, wants down to earth caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. 35-69. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366707

CURRY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 377432

30YR old attractive confident business woman, frequently in area seeks older gent for mutual spoiling, pampering and fun. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358137

PRETTY female 24, tall, dark hair/eyes, likes meals out, looking for male, any age/status for LTR. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361953

BIG is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368528

32YR Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or commitments. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363273

NAUGHTY female 50 W/LTM male 60yr plus who knows what he is doing for mutual appreciation and fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365061

TRACY 49, petite, N/S, likes motorbikes, jogging, walks, cycling, seeks male for companionship and easy out. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365809

BEAUTY 39 looking for much older male for very special relationship. Looks unimportant. Single dad welcome. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368025

SLIM feminine brunette 22, big brown eyes, attractive, active and a nurse, looking for older male for fun, TLC and more 30-58. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365059

DEBBIE 38, fit size 12, W/LTM intelligent man for fun relationship with no ties. Any age. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368027

5FT 1ins female, GSOH, seeks 5ft 5ins plus, well built male with GSOH for fun, fun, W Midlands. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365743

SHAPELY solvent, blonde professional lady who sees life as an adventure, seeks attractive fun who can handle a feisty lady. Any age/status. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366383

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OPTIMISTIC

slim blue eyed brunette looking for love with spontaneous younger open minded guy. CHAT207. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366005

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 369317

CLASSY gorgeous 22yr old seeking wealthy sugar daddy to care for her. Any age/status/looks unimportant. fun guaranteed. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365997

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old naughty girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363277

ONCE bitten twice shy! Just looking for fun. Attractive, OHAC, you won't be disappointed. Any age/status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363407

VERY attractive 18yr old fitness instructor looking to burn some extra calories with older experienced male who thinks he can keep up. 30-60. ACA. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364311

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel. 45-55. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358399

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364651

SHROPSHIRE lady 48, slim, attractive, N/S, seeks attractive male, 5ft 10ins plus for good times, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359491

PROFESSIONAL independent lady, 49, slim, blonde, attractive, varied interests, seeks intelligent, romantic, sincere, genuine male with GSOH for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 359351

WHITE 50's, genuine modern West Brom female, divorced, easygoing, seeks fit modern male, 50-60 for LTR. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358855

SHROPSHIRE lady, 61, likes countryside, sea, travel, cooking, sewing, lived on farm, seeks special genuine gent for nice match. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 334241

CARING and honest lady 61, 5ft 2ins, W/LTM very caring and honest gentleman. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357985

KIND romantic, loving lady, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 357751

SUE attractive, slim, 50's, green eyes, varied interests, trendy, OHAC, seeks special guy. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 180887

FEMALE 51, slim, 5ft 4ins, genuine, caring, seeks special male who is genuine and caring. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356761

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, 55, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH and enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 356411

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curly blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363428

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 384852

GENUINE male, honest, caring, OHAC, likes socialising, holidays, seeks attractive female, 55-70 for special relationship. Whitchurch. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368181

46YR old male, 5ft 5ins, blue eyes, short hair, N/S, intelligent, likes swimming, fishing, walks, days out, seeks similar honest female. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 352575

MALE late 40's, likes nights in/out, cooking, dancing, walks, cinema, seeks caring female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365343

GENUINE male, honest, caring, OHAC, likes socialising, holidays, seeks attractive female, 55-70 for special relationship. Whitchurch. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 368181

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TALL fit good looking

friendly guy with GSOH, 49, seeks adventurous lady for fun only, daytime liaisons. Halesowen. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 358747

FREE holiday! Attractive, professional male, 33, seeks company this summer. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 187297

ATTRACTIVE professional, genuine, sincere, honest, likes cinema, walks, seeks attractive, slim, special lady, 30-50 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366103

COUNTRY gent, 56, no ties, affluent, handsome, seeks local runner with legs to die for, must be attractive and liberal minded. 35-49. Hammerwich. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 365990

MATURE male, seeks female for kisses, cuddles and naughty indoor fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363253

MALE 39, blond hair, brown hair, 5ft 10ins, slim-medium build, attractive, genuine, varied interests, seeks female, 46-55, size 16-20 for laughs, days out and fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366267

EARLY 50's male, easygoing, seeks female for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 337153

GOOD hearted 21yr old student looking for loving relationship with female, 18-21. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 328119

MALE early 60's, fit, active, N/S, no ties, likes travel, country walks, nights in, seeks female, 50-65 for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366515

HELP help, help! Inexperienced CD, 52, seeks understanding female, 50s, fun and excitement. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 226021

SPORTY good looking guy, 37, OHAC, good job, likes meals out, pubs, cinema, nights in, seeks attractive female, 27-42. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364633

STOPI Steve 52, confident, seeks high heeled, female for fun and adventure. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 227298

55YR old male, kind, generous, loving, seeks lady for mistresses type relationship. Staffs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366445

MALE seeks open-minded female, any age/nationality for fun and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364625

MALC blue eyes, slim, seeks open-minded female, any age/nationality for fun and good times. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 350993

SINGLE guy, seeks nice lady for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 364395

TALL handsome male, 41, GSOH, likes romantic days/nights in/out, W/LTM attractive, down to earth, young lady, 35-55, size unimportant. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 366111

GRAHAM slim, 66, young out look, fit, seeks genuine, intelligent lady with GSOH, 50-60's for LTR. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 361665

43YR old male, kind, caring, seeks female, 35-45 to bring a sparkle to his life, for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 363603

MALE 58, likes nights in, seeks female, any age 40-80 for cosy nights in and adult fun. Must like dogs. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 362199

32YR old guy, likes music, cooking, joking, seeks female, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 332365

GAY guy looking for love with gay guy in the Wolverhampton area. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367221

TELFORD male, 62, bit, seeks similar male, any race for discreet fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 367053

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for fun. Tel No: 0905 436 6562 Box No: 355984

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GAY guy looking for love with

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A tree in an oilseed rape field in April this year taken from the Aldridge Road.

This week's pictures come from one of our regular contributors Andrew Blakemore of Aldridge who has spent time walking along the canal paths capturing the wildlife and sights on camera.



A heron alongside Daw End canal.



The blue sky reflecting on the canal.



Daw End Canal, Aldridge looking towards Riddian's Bridge.

Snapshots of life in the borough

Are you a snazzy snapper, a lord of the lens or diva of the digital print? Think you can do better than these pictures, if you can why not share your snaps of the borough?

There is no limit on the age or the subject all we ask is that they be as sharp and clear as possible and must be of reasonable quality for publication and of course feature some area or aspect of Walsall and its life.

Send them in with your name, address and contact number and a brief description of what the picture shows.

Also we would like to hear about any interesting tales or stories attached to the photograph. Send them in either as a hard copy or electronically and we will do the rest. So get those cameras snapping, dig out those dusty old albums and send them to: **Snappers Claim to Frame, Walsall Chronicle, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES** or email them to walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk.



Two mallards swimming along the Daw End canal.

Entertainment Cannock Chase At The Prince of Wales Centre



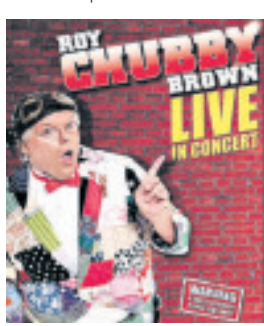
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Vision is clear for a Willenhall company

ENERGYSEAL Ltd, of Wolverhampton, is leading the way in the window, door and conservatory trade.

Coming through a major recession and credit crunch, they have seen figures rise, month after month, making it the biggest conservatory supplier in the Midlands.

EnergySeal Premier A1 window and conservatory systems are manufactured using the leading uPVC SynerJy profile, as well as having energy efficient glass and state-of-the-art locking systems.

The company manufactures all its products at the factory based at Planetary Road, Willenhall – just five minutes from the Bentley Bridge complex.

Visit the showroom near Bentley Bridge, Willenhall to see one of the UK's most impressive conservatory displays.

The showroom features six



EnergySeal Ltd's director, David Carter, started the company 10 years ago with his brother Richard

full size conservatories where visitors can relax and choose, safe in the knowledge that they won't be pestered or pressurised by salespeople.

Company director David Carter says: "My brother and I went into business together 10 years ago, working from home selling a few uPVC doors and windows.

"Since then we have expanded every year and now boast to be the biggest manufacturers in the business.

"Being a family run business helps us develop year in, year out, keeping everything close knit with no middle man to call the shots.

"I deal with the general public and

Richard deals with the trade. So when any enquiries come through to the sales office you are dealing with the company director from the off."

David and Richard also include their wives in the company with leading roles.

Zoe, David's wife, looks after all the enquiries coming through the showroom on a daily basis and Jane, Richard's wife, manages the insulation department alongside Adrian Jackson, the other company director.

This month only, the company has some fantastic offers, including a 3m x 3m conservatory with electric pack from £4,999; any front or back door from as little as £399 and is also running a no

deposit offer, so the customer doesn't pay a penny until all the work has been carried out and they are completely satisfied with the end product.

The company is also offering a 10-year insurance backed guarantee which is covered by the Independent Warranty Association (IWA).

EnergySeal Ltd manufactures all windows, doors and conservatories on site at their large factory showroom in Planetary Road. If you're thinking of undertaking any work on your home, either give EnergySeal a call on 01902 866000 or pop into the showroom and chat to their friendly sales staff, who can offer some of the best advice in the industry.



David Carter shows a customer around one of the UK's most impressive conservatory displays



EnergySeal, in Planetary Road, Willenhall, manufactures windows, doors and conservatories

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thechronicle

Moon, mind and the multiverse

Nocturne: A Journey in Search of Moonlight – James Attlee (Hamish Hamilton, hardback, £18.99)

ILL met by moonlight, moonstruck, by the light of the silvery moon... there is something in that reflected radiance of earth's natural satellite which casts an almost magical spell.

Despite being a no-nonsense rationalist, Oxford author James Attlee also comes under its spell in this globe-trotting exploration of moonlight.

With much of the urbanised world now lacking moonlight due to the spread of artificial lighting, Attlee seeks the lunar glow by climbing Mount Vesuvius by night, visiting the interstellar light collector in the Arizona desert and going in search of a Blue Moon in the mountains of Wales.

He also explores moonlight in art, myth, science and culture. It's an engaging journey of discovery, one that will make you yearn for a night of moonbeams.

The Hidden Reality – Brian Greene (Allen Lane, hardback, £25)

AMERICAN physics and mathematics professor Brian Greene takes the reader gently by the hand and explains the latest theories from the cutting edge of cosmology and physics. This is head-spinning, mind-blowing stuff which leaves the ordinary man's supposition that the universe means all there is – everything – gathering dust. Here he explores the latest proposals for the *multiverse*, a plethora of theories for parallel universes. Some are so far away that it is hard to conceive the distance, others are just millimetres away, co-existing yet invisible, hidden from view.

We have the *braneworld* scenario, an offshoot from superstring theory, in which different worlds co-exist as adjacent slabs, like the slices of bread in a loaf, next to each other but independent. Or the *quilted multiverse* where an infinite reality means infinite realities, a myriad of universes in which everything that could ever happen does happen. It means that somewhere else in the multiverse your doppelganger was reading this article 10 minutes ago, or in another 'you' just skipped straight to the sports pages, or in another you decided to watch TV instead, etc. Then there are the bubble worlds of the *inflationary multiverse*, realities that pop in and out of existence in a great cosmic foam of universes.

Those are just the straightforward scenar-

POPULAR SCIENCE

ios. Things get really weird with the *holographic multiverse* when events in our reality are an echo or a mirror to events in a parallel universe. Or, a certain favourite among sci-fi fans, the *simulated multiverse* in which our reality is a construct, something created by an alien intelligence (not so much an ET than an ED, extra-dimensional). If you imagine this simulated universe being like an online computer game, then the real reality is the one in which the servers exist, where the plug can be pulled. Some of these theories sound like they're taken from an episode of Doctor Who, though perhaps the most exciting thing about the multiverse is that it suggests a world(s) of boundless possibilities that could make truth stranger than science fiction.

It is to Greene's credit that he takes you on his journey through such brain-bending theories without being patronising; extra detailed information is there in the footnotes. But most readers will be happy enough if his metaphors help them grasp the outlines of these rarefied but well-informed ideas based in mathematics and science.

Anyone tempted to dismiss these theories as existing only in the minds of boffins should think of the vast resources that have been put into building the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland. The holy grail for many of the scientists carrying out proton smashing experiments there is to register energy disappearing to another dimension – thus proving the existence of the multiverse.

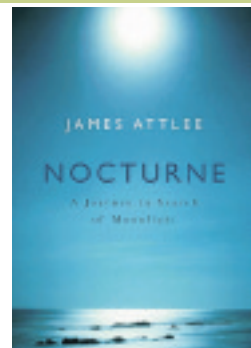
Moonwalking with Einstein – Joshua Foer (Allen Lane, paperback, £14.99)

IF, like me, you have a problem recalling your mobile telephone number, this book will have you gasping with awe or seething with jealousy. This is a book about memory and how certain individuals can train their brain to remember incredible detail.

In the case of the US Memory Championship, you are given just five minutes to memorise the sequence of 52 playing cards. American journalist Joshua Foer sets himself that formidable task by entering the competition, which involves a year of training in memory techniques, some methods dating back to such ancient philosophers as Cicero. His breezy and self-deprecating style will soon have you cheering Joshua on.

As well as an enjoyable true life yarn, the author passes on some of those techniques.

BOOKS



These involve creating a 'memory theatre', a place in the mind where every object and event has significance to represent the number or whatever else you wish to remember, and the more bizarre the better to recall them – hence the book's title, *Moonwalking with Einstein*, his way of recalling the three of diamonds. As for the outcome of the championship... well, let's just say that his book has been optioned to be a Hollywood movie.

NASA Space Shuttle; RMS Titanic; Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress (all Haynes, hardback, £19.99)

THESE recent titles in the unsurpassed Owners' Workshop Manual series from Haynes are stretching owner tag somewhat... a battered old Ford Capri maybe, but a second hand space shuttle in the garage! But that doesn't matter when this brings the Haynes hallmark of attention to detail to these incredible crafts.

Sussex-based Dr David Baker, who worked with NASA on the Gemini, Apollo and Shuttle programmes, brings his considerable expertise to the *Nasa Space Shuttle* story, which is ending this year after 30 years and 140 missions. His book includes 250 photographs and technical illustrations.

Marine engineer Richard P de Kerbrech and engineer and draughtsman David Hutchings have collaborated on the volume about the ill-fated *Titanic*, which sank on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic in 1912. They also pinpoint why this massive liner did not live up to the 'unsinkable' boast.

Essex engineer Graeme Douglas has almost 30 years' experience working as an engineer on the B-17 Flying Fortress, the mightiest of all the American bomber planes. In another well-illustrated book, he gives an insight into the history of, and the actual experience of flying, the rumbling 'Queen of the Skies'.

Leon Burakowski

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In the current climate it's neither practical nor affordable to move house, so the best way to maximise the space and comfort in your home and to the value of one of the biggest investments you have, is with a new bathroom or kitchen. Local company Willenhall Bathrooms will provide you with an extensive range of bathroom sanitary ware, furniture, accessories and fitting with a choice of traditional and more contemporary designs to suit any style and budget. Their kitchen ranges include all the space saving features or fitted and made to measure furniture, soft close doors, a range of worktops which include granite and other hard wearing options and a range of electrical appliances to help you complete the look. All expertly designed using the latest computer design technology and expertly fitted, or provided on a supply only basis.

Willenhall bathrooms supply most major brands as well having good relationships with other manufacturers &

distributors who they have sourced for their affordable ranges and quality. They offer a wide range of bathroom suites, accessories, mirrors, cabinets, wall tiles and flooring - including the increasingly popular and energy saving under floor heating system - ensuring that they have the ideal look that fits in your space, your style and your budget. To make things easier for you, the team offer a full design and installation service which includes new layouts, plumbing, plastering, tiling, lighting, ventilation and flooring. With highly skilled and qualified fitting teams, they can also ensure speedy and exceptional fitting, with minimal disruption in your home.

Managing Director, Adrian Nichols, is proud of the service he and his team provides. "We are happy to provide you with a free no obligation quote; either with your own measurements, or after a short consultation in your own home. We pride ourselves on our no pressure sales approach - so the price you are offered is a fair and real price, we don't give artificially inflated quotes and then offer false reductions in a bid to make you buy. Our customer recommendations speak for themselves and for your added peace of mind, our work is covered by liability insurance in your home and our after sales service includes product warranties of up to 5 years."

They are also specialists in designing and installing wet rooms - an increasingly popular

choice for young professionals as well as families and the elderly. They have also enhanced their range of walk in baths and safety accessories for the elderly and people with mobility issues. Adrian goes on to say that "Our work with our elderly customers has led us to gain a deeper understanding of their needs. We are very aware of their practical needs; the furniture needs to suit its purpose but it can still be both attractive and affordable, and we also understand that they want someone they can trust to advise them of the best options for them and fitters they can trust in their home."

They love supplying and fitting bathrooms & kitchens, but it doesn't end there, they also design and install bedrooms and home offices too, additional products that will add value and comfort to your home. So, before you agree to a competitors quote for any fitted furniture, contact Willenhall Bathrooms for a free no obligation quote - you'll like the difference they can provide.

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the pulse

Finger on the folk-pop button

Black Country singer Rachel Button has just released her debut EP and is preparing for her first major Midlands gig. She tells **TIM SPIERS** about how much she is looking forward to returning to her roots

BEING compared favourably with Norah Jones is high praise indeed but for Oldbury-born singer Rachel Button those sorts of accolades could soon become the norm.

Rachel has come a long way since playing violin in Sandwell Youth Orchestra and is now preparing for his first major Midlands gig, at Birmingham's Glee Club next month.

The concert coincides with the release of her debut EP *With Love*, and is something of a homecoming for the 26-year-old.

She moved to London seven years ago to pursue her dream of a successful career and is now living the life of a musician.

In between gigs in and around London, Rachel is a vocal tutor at The Academy of Music and Sound in Birmingham, as well as



Oldbury folk-pop singer Rachel Button - at the Glee Club in Birmingham on June 10

finding time to write and produce songs. "It's an unstable lifestyle," she admits, "but I like it like that. It keeps me on my toes."

A former pupil at Perryfields High School, Rachel has always loved to sing and after performing at churches and youth groups decided music was the career for her.

After convincing her supportive parents that it was the right thing to do, she went to London to earn a degree in Popular Music Performance, picking up a First before completing a Masters in the same subject.

Several gigs in the capital followed including a support slot with Ocean Colour Scene

members Simon Fowler and Oscar Harrison, as well as a recording opportunity with Ministry of Sound.

Now Rachel, aged 26, is hoping her first EP will be the first of many more releases.

"It's so exciting for me at the moment and I'm really looking forward to the next few months," she said.

"I'd describe my style as folk-pop and I've been likened to Eva Cassidy, Norah Jones and Joni Mitchell.

"Songwriting comes quite naturally and I always carry a notebook for those moments of inspiration."

Her Glee Club gig is the first she's done near her home town and with family and friends set to turn out in big numbers, Rachel is looking forward to showing her original material off.

"I really wanted to come home and put on a show," she added.

"I've had loads of old friends get in touch with me through Facebook as well which is nice."

"It's hard in the music industry but I've got a lot of drive to pick myself up after any knock-backs."

"Hopefully I can get signed to a record deal soon and then go on tour and sell lots of CDs!"

Rachel Button is at the Glee Club on June 10. Tickets are £6 in advance and doors open at 8pm.

Fleeting Civic appearance for harmonious rock band

SEATTLE roots rockers Fleet Foxes bring their harmonious sound to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on June 23 but making their newly released second album, *Helplessness Blues*, was a far from harmonious experience.

Recording got off to a good start laying down rhythm tracks with good vibes abounding at Dreamland recording studio in Woodstock, near

the site of the legendary hippy musical festival in upstate New York. But the recording process almost ground to a halt during a difficult seven month stretch back in their home city.

"A ton of s**t happened at numerous studios," explains the American band's singer and songwriter Robin Pecknold. "Basically it took a long time due to illness, scheduling, cre-

ative doubt, reassessment, rewriting, new songs being written."

"We ended up mixing at Avast in Seattle in December of 2010 with the record finally finished, even though we were recording vocals and guitar and rewriting lyrics up to the 11th hour. Not even the 11th hour, more like the 13th. So here we are, almost three years after the first album, finally done with the second one."

It is a relief then to find that Helplessness Blues is a worthy follow up to their self-titled debut album, which is fast approaching classic status for the band who, in the USA, are signed to Nirvana's old record label Sub Pop.

But there is no hint of grunge in the works of the Fleet Foxes, a burst of



Hear the Seattle sound of rockers the Fleet Foxes at the Civic Hall on June 23

free jazz on one track of the new album is the only major detour from their pristine folk-rock sound.

"I'd say it's a synthesis of folk rock, traditional folk and psychedelic pop with an emphasis on group vocal harmonies," adds Pecknold.

"Musically it leans on country music a little bit more, in the slide guitar of songs like Grown Ocean and Bedouin Dress or Helplessness Blues. We used a number of new instruments including the 12-string guitar, the hammered dulcimer, zither, upright bass, wood flute, tympani, Moog synthesizer, the tamboura, the fiddle, the marophone, clarinet, the music box, pedal steel guitar, lap steel guitar, Tibetan singing bowls, vibraphone... along

with more traditional instrumentation."

Given that list, the kitchen sink must be a likely addition for the next album. Tickets for the Wolverhampton gig are £21.50, available on 0879 320 7000 or at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Support will come from psychedelic popsters The Bees, from the Isle of Wight.

Paul Weller fans may have seen them supporting the Modfather in Birmingham in November. The Bees are still best known for their funky 60s-style dance track Chicken Payback, Wash in the Rain and their hit cover of Os Mutantes' A Minha Meia. Fourth album, *Every Step's A Yes*, was released last October.

Support for the Fleet Foxes at the Civic Hall will come from psychedelic Isle of Wight based band The Bees



TV listings start - page 32

YOUR EIGHT-PAGE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE AND WEEK'S TV VIEWING



Theatre and show round-up - page 31



Reviews and gigs - page 36

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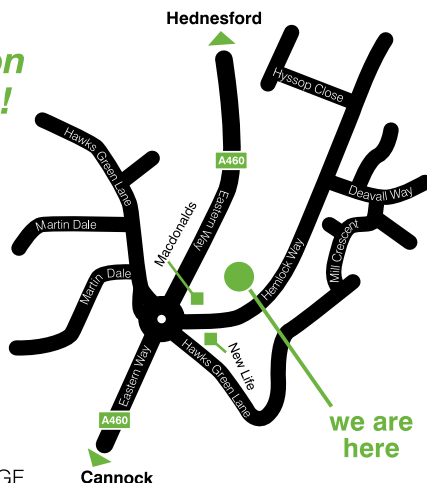
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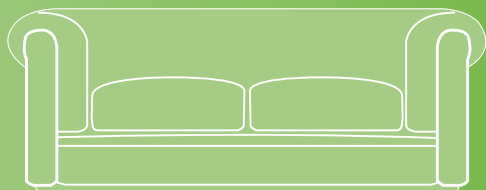
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DOCTOR WHO

BBC 1, 6.45pm

Part one of two. A solar tsunami causes the Tardis to land at a futuristic factory on Earth, where humans are making use of a mysterious pool to create drone-like doppelgangers of themselves. The clones are directed by their masters to mine dangerous acids, but when a second wave hits, they begin to develop ideas of their own. Guest starring Marshall Lancaster (Ashes to Ashes), Sarah Smart (At Home with the Braithwaites) and Raquel Cassidy (Lead Balloon), alongside Matt Smith, Karen Gillan and Arthur Darvill.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.10** Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix - Qualifying. Coverage from the Circuit de Catalunya in Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **2.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Wakefield Trinity Wildcats v Castleford Tigers. (Kick-off 2.30pm). **4.35** Don't Scare the Hare. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.35** So You Think You Can Dance Live.

6.45 Doctor Who. Part one of two. The Doctor visits a futuristic factory.

7.30 So You Think You Can Dance. The dancers with the lowest votes perform again.

7.55 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. Game show in which strangers pair up to win money.

8.45 Casualty. An administrative error throws the ED into turmoil and puts a boy's life in danger, while Mads encounters an aggressive taxi driver.

9.35 John Bishop's Britain. Comedy, with guest James Corden. (R)

10.05 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.25 FILM: DeJa Vu. (2006) Sci-fi thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Paula Patton, Val Kilmer and Jim Caviezel.

12.20 Film: Judgment Night. (1993) Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez and Cuba Gooding Jr; Weatherview. **2.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** Film: It Happened One Night. (1934) Oscar-winning romantic comedy, with Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert. **1.40** Diagnosis Murder. (R) **2.25** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Two Greedy Italians. (R) **4.25** Film: The Heroes of Telemark. (1965) Second World War thriller, starring Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris.

6.30 Flog It! Paul Martin and the experts examine a selection of antiques in Durham. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring guards some PoWs. (R)

8.00 Operation Mincemeat. How Britain deceived Hitler into thinking the Allies were planning to invade Greece in 1943, allowing them to land in Sicily - their real target - with minimal resistance. (R)

9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You. Satirical current affairs quiz. (R)

9.45 Our 'Enry: A Tribute to Sir Henry Cooper. A profile of the late boxer, who claimed the British, Commonwealth and European heavyweight titles during his illustrious career.

10.30 FILM: Cinderella Man. (2005) Fact-based drama, with Russell Crowe, Renee Zellweger and Paul Giamatti.

12.45 Later with Jools Holland. (R) **1.50** Film: The Set-Up. (1949) Boxing drama, starring Robert Ryan. **3.00** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** House Gift. (R) **9.25** Coronation Street. (R) **11.45** This Morning: Saturday. **12.40** ITV News; Weather. **12.45** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.15** Film: Carry On Screaming. (1966) Comedy horror, starring Kenneth Williams. **3.05** Film: Moonraker. (1979) James Bond spy adventure starring Roger Moore. **5.25** Regional Programmes. **5.35** ITV News; Weather. **5.50** New People Do the Funniest Things.

6.45 Sing If You Can. The final of the singing competition. Last in the series.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The penultimate round of auditions, as more acts try to impress judges Michael McIntyre, Amanda Holden and David Hasselhoff. Ant and Dec host.

9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Des O'Connor. The entertainer discusses his stage and TV career, talks about becoming a father at the age of 72 and reveals how gambling cost him his family home. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News; Weather. **10.15** FILM: Tightrope. (1984) Thriller, starring Clint Eastwood, Genevieve Bujold and Dan Hedaya.

12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.20** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Formula 3 International Series. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.50** T4: Friends. (R) **9.20** T4: Koko Pop. **9.50** T4: Friends. (R) **10.30** T4: Gaga's Monsters. **11.20** T4: Glee. **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.20** That Paralympic Show. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.00** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **4.30** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.00** Come Dine with Me Down Under. **5.30** Come Dine with Me Down Under.

6.00 Come Dine with Me Down Under. Mark Alexander tries to pass shop-bought food off as his own.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. **7.00** The Restoration Man. Converting a disused Victorian church in Wales. (R)

8.00 River Cottage Heroes. Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall holds a celebratory dinner. (R)

9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. Quiz show, presented by Davina McCall.

10.20 FILM: Far from Heaven. (2002) Period drama, starring Julianne Moore, Dennis Quaid and Patricia Clarkson.

12.30 Film: Swimfan. (2002) Thriller, starring Jesse Bradford. **1.55** Friday Night In. (R) **2.05** King Pylon. (R) **2.10** The Wrong Turn. (R) **2.15** The Dead Zone. (R) **2.55** Hill Street Blues. (R) **3.45** Ugly Betty. (R) **4.30** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **5.25** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Meals in Moments. (R) **10.10** Family Food Fight. (R) **10.40** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.40** Extreme Fishing with Robson Green - At the Ends of the Earth. (R) **12.40** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **1.40** Film: A Lawless Street. (1955) Western, with Randolph Scott. **3.15** Film: Gunsmoke. (1953) Western, starring Audie Murphy. **4.50** Film: The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen. (2003) Comic-book fantasy adventure, with Sean Connery.

6.45 5 News Weekend. **6.50** NCIS. A murder is shown live online. (R)

7.40 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. Warrick tries to solve the murder of a gang member. (R)

8.35 CSI: Miami. A bungled SWAT raid on a residence results in the death of an innocent man, and separate chains of evidence lead Horatio to a pair of equally viable suspects. (R)

9.35 CSI: NY. Mac reconnects with his first partner.

10.35 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Jim Brass searches for his daughter's missing friend. (R)

11.35 Forensic Files. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Eco Escapes. (R) **4.10** Nick's Quest. (R) **4.35** HouseBusters. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
2.45 American Idol **5.15** Film: Bean (1997) **7.00** Fiddles, Cheats & Scams **8.00** Homes from Hell **9.00** Britain's Got More Talent **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Film: Waterworld (1995)

ITV3
3.35 Agatha Christie's Poirot **5.50** Inspector Morse **7.55** Rosemary & Thyme **9.00** Foyle's War. A murder mars the victory celebration preparations. Last in the series. **11.00** Rebus

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kings XI Punjab v Deccan Chargers and Delhi DareDevils v Pune Warriors. **8.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights **9.00** Police, Camera, Action! **10.00** Live Cycling. The seventh stage of the Tour of California.

BBC THREE
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.30** Doctor Who Confidential **8.15** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.35** Russell Howard Live: Dingleedodles **11.35** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 The Secret Life of Elephants **8.00** Latin Music USA **9.00** Wallander **10.30** Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **11.00** Arena: No Direction Home - Bob Dylan

E4
1.25 Hollyoaks **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** Friends **6.00** Glee **7.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Friends **10.00** Film: Assault on Precinct 13 (2005)

FILM4
3.15 Porridge (1979) **5.05** Catch That Kid (2004) **6.50** Attack the Block Special **6.55** The Italian Job (2003) **9.00** Alfie (1966) A cockney lothario leads a carefree life of casual sex with as many women as possible, until real life starts to intrude. Comedy drama, starring Michael Caine. **11.15** The Loved Ones (2009)

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LOUIS THEROUX: MIAMI MEGA JAIL

BBC2, 9.00pm
Part one of two. Louis Theroux examines life in Miami County Jail, where most of the inmates are awaiting trial. He begins by exploring the large cage-like dwellings on the fifth and sixth floor, which are home to many of the most volatile prisoners. The inmates' lives are governed by a gladiatorial code, leading to fights for food and status - a situation the guards say they are powerless to address. The concluding part will be shown on Sunday May 29.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** The Politics Show; Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.10** Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix Live. The fifth round of the season from Barcelona (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.15** Life of Riley. (R) **3.45** Bargain Hunt. **4.15** Points of View. **4.30** Songs of Praise. **5.05** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** Final Score. Round-up of football results.

6.15 **RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2011.** New series. A preview of the annual horticultural show.

7.00 **Countryfile.** Efforts to protect native bluebells in Goodwood, West Sussex.

8.00 **British Academy Television Awards.** Graham Norton hosts the annual awards ceremony at Grosvenor House Hotel in London, with shows including Downton Abbey, Sherlock, Misfits and The X Factor up for recognition.

10.00 **BBC News; Regional News; Weather.**

10.25 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of the final day of the Premier League.

11.55 **FILM: Taffin.** (1988) Action thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan, Alison Doody and Ray McAnally; Weatherview.

1.35 Sign Zone: The Apprentice. (R) **2.35** Holby City. (R) **3.35** MasterChef: The Final Three. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **12.45** Priceless Antiques Roadshow. (R) **1.15** EastEnders. **3.10** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Bradford Bulls v Wigan Warriors (Kick-off 3.30pm). **5.30** Obama News Special.

6.00 **Coast.** How William the Conqueror taught the English to build castles.

6.10 **Richard Hammond's Engineering Connections.** Innovations allowing tankers to carry natural gas without risk of explosion.

7.00 **Top Gear.** Jeremy Clarkson tests the Renaultsport Twingo 133 in Belfast, Richard Hammond tries his hand at airport vehicle racing, and Guy Ritchie is the Star in a Reasonably Priced Car. (R)

8.00 **Britain's Secret Seas.** Marine life and mysterious wrecks found in the seas surrounding Britain.

9.00 **Louis Theroux: Miami Mega Jail.** Part one of two. Louis Theroux examines life in Miami County Jail.

10.00 **FILM: Zodiac.** (2007) Premiere. Fact-based crime thriller, starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

12.30 The Shadow Line. (R) **1.30** French Open Tennis. **2.30** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **8.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **9.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **10.25** Sing If You Can. (R) **11.40** This Morning: Sunday. **12.40** Dinner Date. (R) **1.35** ITV News; Weather. **1.50** Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing. (1971) Detective drama, with Peter Falk. **3.20** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.20** Film: Back to the Future Part III. (1990) Sci-fi comedy sequel, with Michael J Fox and Christopher Lloyd.

6.30 **Regional Programmes.** **6.45** **ITV News; Weather.**

7.00 **The Cube.** The show's tallest-ever contestant takes up the challenge. Last in the series.

8.00 **Vera.** DCI Vera Stanhope finds a kindred spirit in the son of a murdered woman and comes to realise the key to the case is hidden deep in his memory. Last in the series.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten; Weather.**

10.15 **The Life and Loss of Karen Woo.** Paddy Smith visits Afghanistan to retrace the steps of his fiancée Karen Woo, a doctor who was murdered in August 2010 while on a medical aid mission in the war-torn country.

11.30 **Florida - Paradise Lost.** (R)

12.25 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** Morning News.

Channel 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.25** Freesports on 4. **7.55** T4: Friends. (R) **8.20** T4: Friends. (R) **8.45** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.20** T4: Being N-Dubz in America and Beyond. (R) **11.55** T4: Glee. (R) **12.55** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.25** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **2.55** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **3.30** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.00** Jamie's 30 Minute Meals. (R) **4.30** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Time Team. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.** **6.55** **4thought.tv.** A man recovering from brain surgery reflects on the healing power of humour.

7.00 **Come Dine with Me.** Four amateur chefs from Newcastle compete.

8.00 **The Hotel.** A local psychic hires a function room.

9.00 **FILM: Orphan.** (2009) Premiere. A couple adopt a nine-year-old Russian girl, but the wife begins to suspect the child may be dangerously disturbed. Horror, starring Vera Farmiga.

11.20 **FILM: Vinyan.** (2008) Premiere. Horror, with Emmanuelle Beart.

1.10 My New Brain. (R) **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E. (R) **3.05** Civilization: Is the West History? (R) **4.00** Wild Thing I Love You. (R) **4.55** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** The Beeps. (R) **7.00** Mio Mao. (R) **7.10** Chiro. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** Hansel's Helpline. (R) **7.50** Milkshake! Music Box. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.15** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.30** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Olivia. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.30** Gerald McBoing Boing. (R) **10.00** Zoo Days. (R) **10.20** McFly on the Wall. **10.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **11.50** Emergency Bikers. (R) **12.50** Film: Wyoming Renegades. (1954) **2.15** Film: Ride to Hangman's Tree. (1967) **4.00** Film: Last of the Dogmen. (1995)

6.10 **5 News Weekend.**

6.15 **FILM: Fun with Dick and Jane.** (2005) Crime comedy remake, starring Jim Carrey and Tea Leoni.

8.00 **FILM: Miss Congeniality.** (2000) Comedy, starring Sandra Bullock.

10.15 **FILM: Proof of Life.** (2000) Action drama, starring Russell Crowe and Meg Ryan.

12.50 Rough Guide to Activity Holidays. (R) **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** Rough Guide to Weekend Breaks. (R) **4.10** Divine Designs. (R) **4.35** House Doctor. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
4.00 The British Soap Awards 2011 **6.00** Britain's Got Talent **7.00** Animals Do the Funniest Things **8.00** Kerry Katona **9.00** Peter Andre **10.00** Film: Baby Mama (2008)

ITV3
2.10 Film: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971) **4.10** Inspector Morse **6.15** Mr Bean **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** The Best of the Royal Variety **9.00** Film: Tin Cup (1996) **11.45** Film: Inside I'm Dancing (2004)

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Royal Challengers Bangalore v Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders v Mumbai Indians. **8.00** Minder **9.00** Police, Camera, Action! **9.30** Live Cycling. The final stage of the Tour of California.

BBC THREE
7.00 Formula 1: The Spanish Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Doctor Who **8.45** Doctor Who Confidential **9.00** Little Britain **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps

BBC FOUR
7.00 A History of Christianity **8.00** The Secret Life of the National Grid **9.00** Enid **10.25** Bookmark **11.05** Tangled Up with Dylan: The Ballad of AJ Weberman

E4
3.00 Jo Frost: Extreme Parental Guidance **4.00** Film: Nine Months (1995) **6.00** Friends **7.00** 90210 **8.00** Friends **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Being Erica **11.55** The Big Bang Theory

FILM4
3.05 Girls! Girls! Girls! (1962) **5.00** Attack the Block Special **5.10** The Duellists (1977) **7.10** The Italian Job (1969) **9.00** Alfie (2004) **11.05** Candy (2006)

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Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast, 9.15 Faking Britain, 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer; BBC News; Weather; 11.00 Don't Get Done, Get Doin'; (R) BBC News; Weather; 11.45 Bargain Hunt; 12.00 The F.R.I.S. Show; 1.00 The Weakest Link; 2.00 BBC News; Weather; 1.31 Regional News; Weather; 1.45 Doctors; 2.15 Escape to the Country; 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News; 3.05 CBBC; 5.15 Weakest Link; 6.00 BBC News; Weather; 6.30 The One Show; 7.00 The One Show; BBC News; Regional News; 8.00 EastEnders; 8.30 A Question of Sport; (R) 9.00 Have I Got News for You; 9.30 Outnumbered; 10.00 The One Show; 10.25 Regional News; Weather; 10.35 The Gadget Show; 11.00 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws; 11.30 Film: The Rainmaker; (1997) 1.35 The One Show; (R) Weatherview; 2.40 Sign Zone: Monty Don's Garden; 3.00 The One Show; 3.15 Mums Know Best; (R) 4.00 BBC News; 4.30

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: *The Rocket*. (1951) 1.00 *Diagnosis Murder*. (R) 1.45 *To Buy or Not to Buy*. (R) 2.15 *Animal* 24/7. (R) 3.00 *Helicopter Heroes*. (R) 3.45 *Flog It!* 3.50 *The Harry Potter* Feature Film. (R) 4.45 *Cash in the Attic*. (R) 6.00 *Eagles*. 6.30 *Great British Menu*. 7.00 *Windfarm Wars*. 8.00 *RHS Chelsea Flower Show* 2011. 9.30 *Paul Merton's Birth of Hollywood*. 10.00 *Newsnight*. 11.00 *The Book Review Show*. *Weather*. 11.50 *Golf: The PGA Championship*. 12.20 *Football Focus*. 1.00 *Hollyoaks*. 1.25 *French Open Tennis*. 2.55 *Film: The Haunted House of Horror*. (1969) 3.35 *Close*.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. 3.59 Regional News; Weather. 4.30 The Big Reveal. 5.00 Britain's Best Dish: The Final. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Baboons with Bill Bailey. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Paul O'Grady Live. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 An Audience with Neil Diamond. (R) 11.35 The Cube. (R) 12.30 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.30 Film: The Hitcher. (R) 3.00 4.10 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV

Squeezed. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. **(R)**
8.00 **8.55** **9.00** **9.05** **9.10** **9.15** **9.20** **9.25** **9.30**
 on Purpose. **9.55** Location, Location, Location. **(R)**
10.55 A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **(R)** **12.05**
 News Summary. **12.05** Paralympic World Cup. **1.05**
 River Cottage Bites. **1.10** Film: The Frogmen
1.30 **1.40** **1.50** **1.55** **2.00** **2.05** **2.10** **2.15** **2.20**
 Wildmark. **3.10** Countdown. **4.00** Deal or No Deal.
5.00 Celebrity Five To Go. **6.00** The Simpsons. **(R)**
6.30 Hollyoaks. **7.00** Channel 4 News. **7.30**
 Unreported World. **7.55** **8.00** **8.05** **8.10** **8.15** **8.20**
 Drop Life. **11.25** That Peter Kay Thing. **10.05**
 PhoneShop. **11.30** The Ricky Gervais Show. **12.00**
 Music on 4. **Jessie J** Live in London. **12.35** Mercury
 Prize. **1.00** **1.05** **1.10** **1.15** **1.20** **1.25** **1.30**
 Spotlight: Lady Gaga Special. **(R)** **1.05** 4Play: The
 Pierces. **1.20** Much Ado About a Minor Ting. **(R)**
1.50 Dish. **2.00** Daddy. **(R)** **2.05** My Name is
 Earl. **(R)** **2.55** The Dead Zone. **(R)** **3.35** Hill Street
 Blues. **4.00** Wild Thing. **I Love You** **5.25**
 Countdown. **(R)**

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 Stansted: The Inside Story. 12.00 The Family Recipe. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.20 The 11th Hour. 1.10 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 The Vanessa Show. 3.35 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 3.10 Film: Killer Flood: The Day the Dam Broke. (2003) Thriller, starring Joe Landi. 5.00 5 News at 5. Weather. 5.30 Neighbours. 6.00 Home and Away. 6.30 5 News at 6. 6.55 5 News at 6.30. Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Mentalist. 10.00 Law & Order. 10.55 CSI: Miami. (R) 11.50 Rough Guide to Adventures. 12.10 SuperSOS. 4.05 Motorsport Mundial. 4.30 Nick's Quick Guide to Quick Start Breaks. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 Home Doctor. (R).



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Black Country Communion's second album is out next month

Black Country misses out on Communion

HEAVY rock supergroup Black Country Communion, who made their UK concert debut last Christmas at Wolverhampton Civic Hall, release their second album next month.

The band fronted by Cannock-raised rock star Glenn Hughes was an instant success with its self-titled debut album, which draws on traditional hard rock values, released in September last year.

It stormed to No1 in the UK Rock Album Chart.

The group also features American blues-rock guitar hero Joe Bonamassa, a Dudley-born drummer Jason Bonham (son of

the late Led Zeppelin stickman John Bonham), and American keyboardist Derek Sherinian.

The new album, entitled 2, is released across Europe on June 13 by Mascot Records. Bonamassa also recently released his 12th album, called Dust Bowl.

Black Country Communion have a short UK tour in July but don't include any West Midlands dates, the nearest being Manchester Academy on July 30.

However, Glenn Hughes will be in concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday, May 29, highlighting music from his solo career plus his back catalogue with Trapeze and Deep Purple.

Tickets cost £22 (plus booking fee) available on 0121 780 3333.

Reviews

The City Madam.

Swan Theatre, Stratford
THE FEAR of financial ruin and loss of social status permeates Philip Massinger's 380-year-old romp, giving this savage comedy a sharp contemporary edge.

The Royal Shakespeare Company has gathered a formidably talented group of actors at the Swan (many of them also appearing in Gregory Doran's Cardenio) and they relish this ruthless and rollicking satire on a society riven by rivalry between the newly rich merchant class and the old aristocracy.

Massinger wrote for Shakespeare's former theatre company The King's Men.

He was a scattergun satirist, who in this play also takes a pop at astrologers, brutal law enforcers and includes possibly the first dig at the Americans.

The convoluted plot centres on Luke Frugal, who has wasted his fortune and now works as a servant in his rich brother's household, where he is meanly treated by his sister-and-law and nieces. Behind his reformed exterior, he plots with servants to defraud his brother.

Meanwhile, that brother, made weary by his haughty wife's financial excesses and suspicious of his brother's pious new image, pretends to retire to a monastery but returns with his daughters' two rejected suitors in disguise as American Indians (seeking a Christian education) to observe how Luke uses his new found power and fortune.

Dominic Hill's fast-paced, 17th Century costumed production hinges on the role of Luke, and Jo Stone-Fewings emerges from the RSC ranks with a performance of such charisma, energy and passion that it should take his career to a new level.

At first he wins the audience's sympathy but, with the phrase "religion, conscience, charity, farewell", wealth and opportunity turns him into a vengeful



Jo Stone-Fewings as Luke Frugal and Sara Crowe as Lady Frugal

silver-tongued devil before our very eyes in a production that also makes much use of magic tricks and illusion.

Lady Frugal (Sara Crowe) and her daughters (Lucy Briggs-Owen, Matti Houghton) are a monstrous flutter of fans and satin gowns, whilst Nicholas Day brings an engaging fruitiness to the role of elderly aristocrat Lord Lacy.

The broadest comedy comes from the suitors, Alex Hassell as the screeching dandy Sir Maurice and Felix Hughes as his rough bluff northern rival Mr Plenty. Christopher Ettridge becomes an audience favourite as the sharp-tongued servant Holdfast. Pippa Nixon got a big laugh as the Cockney chav prostitute Shave'em, leaping through a Royal

Wedding souvenir copy of Hello magazine to find the perfect new carriage.

A puppet show laid on by the 'Indians' seemed a superfluous addition to a three hour play (including interval) but was certainly ingenious.

Audiences may bridle at the play's neat moralistic conclusion, which has the womenfolk promising to be obedient and modest, whilst Luke Frugal is stripped to his underpants, spat upon and cast out in the snow.

But when it deals with greed and pretension, The City Madam is a period piece with plenty to say to a modern audience.

It continues until October 4.

Leon Burakowski

by a nine-piece band as he performed hits from his self-titled debut album, including Thinking Of Me and Heart On My Sleeve, and cover tracks including Superstition by Stevie Wonder.

During the performance Oilly proved every bit the showman by wowing the audience with his smooth dance moves.

He also showed gratitude to his fans by thanking them for voting for him on The X Factor, and ultimately helping him get where he is today.

The cheeky Essex lad paid particular attention to ladies in the audience, which was welcomed by the predominately female crowd, and even got one lucky lady on stage to dance with him.

Oilly ended the show with an encore of his number one single Please Don't Let Me Go, and promised the audience he would be back in Birmingham soon.

So if you did not see it this time, it is one to look out for - because this is a show not to be missed.

Alex Wainwright

An Evening with John Cleese.

Birmingham Hippodrome
John Cleese has worked with some of the greatest comedy writers and actors ever, and gave the audience an insight into his long and successful career.

The star of Monty Python first explains the reason he has decided to go on the road again - his recent divorce from American psychotherapist Alysia Faye Eichelberger is costing him \$20 million over the next five years.

After briefly expressing extreme dissatisfaction with Californian law, the 71-year-old settles down to begin his show, starting with his family's roots. Anyone expecting the show to be a barrel of laughs may have been disappointed at this point.

However, once into full swing, Cleese packed the show full of clips from his early days on The Frost Report, to working with the Two Ronnies and eventually Monty Python.

The evening may not be as hilarious as many people would expect, but it did provide a fascinating insight into the golden era for British comedy, where shows were about experimenting and not ratings.

The second half of the show touched on black comedy, as Cleese believed a dark sense of humour was the only thing he and his mother had in common.

A clip of the Black Knight scene from Monty Python and the Holy Grail was sandwiched between stories of the group pushing each other to be as funny as possible while being a bit naughty, too.

Cleese gave a touching speech about his good friend and fellow Python Graham Chapman, who died in 1989, before moving on to reveal the hotel in which he based Fawlty Towers on and the inception of his hit film A Fish Called Wanda.

Throughout the night, Cleese made it clear he felt he was lucky to be involved in comedy and a three-minute montage of some of his funniest bits closed off the night in a fitting style.

While the show may not be what people expect it is packed full of anecdotes, stories and sketches, which may not always be funny, but are a treat for comedy fans all the same.

Jon Pritchard

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Access your loft safely and easily with Bison loft stairs. The stairs are made and fitted by our Midlands craftsmen using timber from sustainable sources. A gas strut mechanism requiring just

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- The only product available with a safety handle in the loft
- Patented gas strut operation
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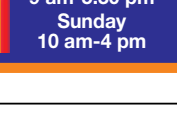
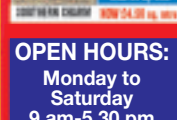
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The top property guide for Walsall, Brownhills, Aldridge, Willenhall and Bloxwich

Three-bed semi is in a popular area

Situated in a peaceful cul-de-sac in a popular neighbourhood, this modern family home was built to a high standard in the late 1990s by a highly regarded local building company.

The three-bedroomed semi-detached home, in Astbury Close, Turnberry, Bloxwich, is close to a wide range of amenities, including shops, schools and good transport links.

Estate agent Marrion And Co is managing the sale of this centrally-heated and double-glazed home, inviting offers in the region of £155,000.

Approaching, the house is set back slightly from the road behind a small gravelled and planted garden.

A driveway runs alongside, leading to a single attached garage, measuring 17ft 1in x 8ft 5in.

A double-glazed front door opens into a hallway with laminate flooring, inset downlighting and a low rise staircase to the first floor.

The guest WC is fitted with a cream coloured low-level suite.

Measuring 15ft 2in x 14ft 8in, the front-facing lounge has a fireplace with raised hearth and inset electric fire.

A door leads from here to the rear-facing dining kitchen, which has dimensions of 14ft 8in x 10ft 1in.

Contrasting

This is comprehensively equipped in a range of oak-effect base and wall units and contrasting rolltop worksurfaces, incorporating a peninsular bar and a single drainer stainless steel sink.

There is ample space for a free-standing cooker, and an integrated extractor fan over, dishwasher, tumble dryer, wall-mounted central heating boiler, ceramic floor and splashback tiling.

The dining area has double-glazed sliding patio doors to the

rear garden. On the first floor, there is a spacious landing with a side window and hatch to the insulated loft space.

The rear-facing master bedroom measures 12ft 3in x 8ft 5in, with a large walk-in double wardrobe.

Bedroom two faces the front, has dimensions of 11ft 2in x 8ft 5in and a single built-in wardrobe.

The third bedroom measures 9ft 1in x 6ft 5in and faces the rear. In the refitted bathroom, there is a white suite consisting of a panelled bath with power shower over, a pedestal wash basin and low-level WC.

There is a front-facing window, an extractor fan, inset downlighting and ceramic wall tiles.

At the rear of the house, an enclosed garden has a patio and lawn surrounded by borders stocked with a variety of established shrubs and trees.

There is also a security light together with an outside water tap. Contact the agent on 01922 404446 to arrange a viewing.



This semi-detached home is conveniently situated for a wide range of good amenities, including shops.

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Penblebury Close Walsall

- Two Bedroom Second Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Sorry NO DHSS, Pets or Smokers

£540 PCM



Broad Lane Essington

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Ground Floor Bathroom
- Sorry NO DHSS

£525 PCM



Borneo Street Walsall

- Three Bedroom House
- Two Reception rooms
- Fitted Kitchen●Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Sorry NO DHSS

£500 PCM



Windrush Close Pelsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom●Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- Allocated Parking●Sorry NO DHSS

£495 PCM



Blackthorne Road Walsall

- Three Bed Semi - Detached
- Entrance Porch
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking●Sorry no DHSS

£495 PCM



Waterfront Way Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Bathroom with Shower
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Communal Entrance●Sorry no DHSS

£495 PCM



Well Lane Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Large Driveway
- Large Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Goscote Lane Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Entrance Hall●Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs W.C● Front garden
- Off Road Parking● Double Glazing
- Central Heating● DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Stanley Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway●Sorry NO DHSS

£495 PCM



Tanners Court Walsall

- Two bedroom apartment
- Lounge ● Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM



New Forest Road WALSALL

- Two Bedroom Semi
- Fitted Kitchen ● Family Bathroom
- Lounge ● Garage
- Sorry NO DHSS

£475 PCM



Blakenall Heath & Guild Court Walker Road

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Lounge/Kitchen● Family Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating● Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

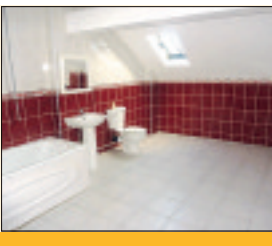
£450 PCM



Yemscroft, Lichfield Road Rushall

- Two Bed Top Floor Flats
- Lounge ● Kitchen with Appliances
- Bathroom ● Shared Communal Gardens
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

From £450 PCM



High Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Rowland Street Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Bridge Street Lofts Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Heating●Secure Entrance
- Sorry NO DHSS

£450 PCM



Tong Street Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Bathrooms
- Gas Central Heating●Double Glazed
- Rear Garden●DHSS Accepted

£440 PCM



Marton Court Bloxwich

- Two bedroom apartment
- Fitted Kitchen, Lounge
- Double glazing & Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£430 PCM



Fountains Road Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing/Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£430 PCM



Rockingham Close Bloxwich

- Two bedroom flat
- Part furnished
- Double glazing, electric heating
- Off-road parking
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Sherlock Close Willenhall

- One Bed First Floor Flat
- Kitchen with all appliances
- Electric Heating●Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Bryan Road Walsall

- Two Bedroom terrace
- Fitted kitchen
- Rear garden
- Off-road parking
- Sorry NO DHSS

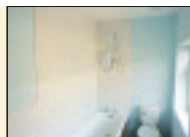
£425 PCM



Westbromwich Road Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- Reception Room
- Lounge/Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden●Sorry NO DHSS

£425 PCM



Harrison Street Bloxwich

- Two Bedroomed First Flat
- Lounge●Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing●Electric heating
- DHSS Accepted

£385 PCM



Bloxwich Road Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£380 PCM



Lincoln Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking●DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Wolverhampton Road Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge● Kitchen
- Shower Room●Loft Bedroom
- Double Glazing●DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Barracks Lane Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

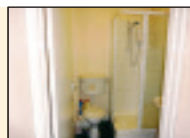
£325 PCM



Broad Lane Bloxwich

- One Bed First Floor Masonette
- Lounge ● Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£325 PCM



Green Lane Walsall

- One Bed Flat - Self - Contained
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen● Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating●Sorry no DHSS

£325 PCM

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SNEYD LANE, ESSINGTON

- Three bedroomed detached
- Potential for extension and improvement
- Two reception rooms
- Fitted kitchen
- Fitted bathroom
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BRADGATE CLOSE, SHORT HEATH

- Four Bedroomed Detached
- Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
- 2 Reception Rooms
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- Guest Cloakroom
- Integral Garage

OFFERS £179,995



ARNWOOD CLOSE, WALSALL

- Three bedroomed Detached Bungalow
- UPVC double glazing and Gas central heating
- Lounge and Dining Room
- Garage
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off road Parking

OFFERS £165,000



ALL SAINTS ROAD, DARLASTON

- Detached Home with Potential
- Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen & Utility Room
- Detached Garage & Side Driveway

OFFERS £122,500



SANDBEDS ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroomed Semi
- Immaculately Presented
- Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen & Utility Area
- Bathroom with Bath & Shower Cubicle
- Off-road Parking for Multiple Vehicles

REDUCED TO OFFERS £119,950



QUEENS LEA (OFF LUCKNOW RD), WILLENHALL

- Three bedroomed semi-detached
- Double glazing and gas central heating
- Spacious lounge
- Kitchen with large dining area
- Off road parking facilities
- Perfect for first time buyer

OFFERS £109,950



ROSEWOOD DRIVE, COPPICE FARM

- Two Bedroomed Semi Detached
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- No Chain

OFFERS £107,500



LAWNSIDE GREEN, BILSTON

- Three Bedroomed Semi-Detached
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- In need of some upgrading

OFFERS £79,950

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- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Luxury Bathroom
- ★ Newly Fitted Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



INTOWN ROW, WALSALL

- ★ Converted Brewhouse
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Kitchen & Lounge
- ★ Bathroom & UPVC DG
- ★ Storage Heaters
- ★ Courtyard

£475pcm



FISHER STREET, WILLENHALL

- ★ Extended & refurbished terrace
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Dining room
- ★ Downstairs guest WC
- ★ Refurbished family bathroom
- ★ Private rear garden
- ★ GCH & UPVC DG

£450pcm



PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

- ★ Second Floor Flat
- ★ Lounge/Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Shower Room
- ★ Storage Heaters

£425pcm



EMERY COURT, EMERY ST, WALSALL

- ★ Second floor flat
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Re-fitted bathroom
- ★ Allocated car port

425pcm



MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- ★ Split Level Flat
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas Central Heating
- ★ Part Double Glazed

£400pcm



REEDSWOOD GARDENS, WALSALL

- ★ 2 Bed 2nd floor flat
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen, Utility
- ★ Two bedrooms, Bathroom
- ★ Parking space
- ★ GCH & UPVC DG

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OLD BIRCHILLS, WALSALL

- ★ Terraced House
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Lounge & Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Rear Garden

£380pcm



SANDWELL COURT, LYSWAYS STREET, WALSALL

- ★ Second Floor Flat
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Kitchen with appliances
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Allocated Parking
- ★ Furnished

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*3 BEDROOM *TIPTON *DETACHED *FULLY FURNISHED *DINING ROOM *FITTED KITCHEN *DRIVEWAY *LARGE REAR GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *CENTRAL HEATING
£895 pcm

Stockwell End, Tetterhall, Wolverhampton



*2 BEDROOM *TETTERHALL *APARTMENT *FIRST FLOOR *FULLY FURNISHED *KITCHEN WITH APPLIANCES *BREAKFAST BAR *LOUNGE *SHOWER ROOM *CENTRAL HEATING *CAR PARK *COMMUNAL GARDENS
£800 pcm

Hollyhock Court, Tetterhall, Wolverhampton



*2 BEDROOM *TETTERHALL *WOLVERHAMPTON *APARTMENT *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *BATHROOM SUITE *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *OFF ROAD PARKING
£650 pcm

**Bright Street,
Wolverhampton**



*6 BEDROOM *WOLVERHAMPTON *SEMI DETACHED *LIVING ROOM *DINING ROOM *FULLY FITTED KITCHEN *BATHROOM *WOLVERHAMPTON UNIVERSITY *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *GARAGE
£650 pcm

**Farbrook Way, Sum-
mer Hayes, Willenhall** **NEW**



*3 BEDROOM *SUMMER HAYES *WILLENHALL *SEMI DETACHED *SPACIOUS LAYOUT *RECEPTION HALLWAY *LOUNGE *CONSERVATORY *MODERN FITTED KITCHEN *PRIVATE REAR GARDEN *GARAGE *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£650 pcm

**Keyte Close, Tip-
ton**



*3 BEDROOM *TIPTON *SEMI DETACHED *MODERN *FULLY FURNISHED *RECEPTION HALLWAY *LOUNGE/DINER *MODERN FITTED KITCHEN *FAMILY BATHROOM *GARAGE *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£650 pcm

**Greswold Street,
West Bromwich** **NEW**



*3 BEDROOM *WEST BROMWICH *SEMI DETACHED *STORM PORCH *HALL *LOUNGE *DINING ROOM *EXTENDED KITCHEN *BATHROOM *REAR GARDEN
£600 pcm

**Riverbank Road,
Willenhall**



*3 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *SEMI DETACHED *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *DINER *FAMILY BATHROOM *EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *MODERN ESTATE *REAR GARDEN
£550 pcm

**Hawksford Crescent, Low
Hill, Wolverhampton**



*3 BEDROOM *WOLVERHAMPTON *SEMI DETACHED *FULLY REFURBISHED *HIGH STANDARD *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *FAMILY BATHROOM *PRIVATE REAR GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£500 pcm

**Willingsworth Road,
Wednesbury** **NEW**



A well presented 2 bedroom end terrace property, situated in popular residential area & convenient for bus routes & metro. Benefiting from central heating, double glazing & no upward chain. Briefly comprising reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, two bedrooms, bathroom/vc, off road parking to the front & enclosed rear garden.
£500 pcm

**Hawksford Crescent, Low
Hill, Wolverhampton**



*3 BEDROOM *WOLVERHAMPTON *SEMI DETACHED *FULLY REFURBISHED *HIGH STANDARD *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *FAMILY BATHROOM *PRIVATE REAR GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£500 pcm

High Meadows, Compton, Wolverhampton **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *COMPTON *WOLVERHAMPTON *APARTMENT *FIRST FLOOR *RECEPTION HALLWAY *LOUNGE *MODERN FITTED KITCHEN *FITTED BATHROOM *DOUBLE GLAZED *COMMUNAL GARDENS
£500 pcm

Ampleforth Drive, Scholars Heath, Willenhall **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *APARTMENT *SECOND FLOOR *RECEPTION HALL *FITTED KITCHEN *BATHROOM *EN SUITE *ALLOCATED PARKING *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£500 pcm

Mills Walk, Tipton



*2 BEDROOM *TIPTON *SEMI DETACHED *SPACIOUS LAYOUT *RECEPTION HALLWAY *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *REFITTED FAMILY BATHROOM *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *PRIVATE REAR GARDEN *OVERLOOKING PLAYING FIELDS
£495 pcm

**Bloxwich Road
South, Willenhall** **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL ROAD *APARTMENT *RECEPTION HALLWAY *SPACIOUS LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *INTERGRATED APPLIANCES *EN SUITE SHOWER ROOM *BATHROOM *ALLOCATED PARKING SPACES
£495 pcm

**Lissimore Drive,
Tipton** **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *TIPTON *APARTMENT *FIRST FLOOR *RECEPTION HALL *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *INTERGRATED OVEN *FAMILY BATHROOM WITH SHOWER *MASTER BEDROOM WITH WARDROBES *ALLOCATED CAR PARK *LOCKED GATES
£475 pcm

Temple Road, Willenhall **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *TERRACED *FULLY REFURBISHED *HIGH STANDARD *TWO RECEPTION ROOMS *NEW FITTED KITCHEN *DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM *GARDEN, DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATED
£475 pcm

**Ashley Street, Bil-
ston** **NEW**



*2 BEDROOM *BILSTON *TERRACED *TWO RECEPTION ROOMS *KITCHEN *BATHROOM *REAR GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *DSS CONSIDERED
£450 pcm

**Tippstone Close,
Tipton** **NEW**



*1 BEDROOM *TIPTON *APARTMENT *LOUNGE *MODERN FITTED KITCHEN *BATHROOM *DOUBLE BEDROOM *LOCAL AMENITIES *MOTORWAY NETWORKS *POPULAR LOCATION
£450 pcm

**The Courtyard, Rus-
sell Street, Willenhall**



*2 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *APARTMENT *GROUND FLOOR *RECEPTION HALL *BATHROOM WITH SHOWER *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *OVEN *WASHER DRYER *ALLOCATED PARKING
£450 pcm

Short Street, Darlaston



*2 BEDROOM *DARLASTON *MID TERRACED *FULLY REFURBISHED *LIVING ROOM *DINING ROOM *NEW FITTED KITCHEN *SHOWER ROOM *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *REAR GARDEN
£450 pcm

Potters, Brook, Tipton **REDUCED**



*1 BEDROOM *TIPTON *APARTMENT *FIRST FLOOR *CRYSTAL GARDEN DEVELOPMENT *HALLWAY *BATHROOM WITH SHOWER *LOUNGE *FULLY FITTED KITCHEN *APPLIANCES *JULIET BALCONY *ALLOCATED PARKING
£425 pcm

**Millpool House,
West Bromwich** **NEW**



*1 BEDROOM *WEST BROMWICH *APARTMENT *LOUNGE *RECEPTION HALL *FITTED KITCHEN *BATHROOM *SHOWER OVER BATH *DOUBLE GLAZED *CENTRAL HEATING
£450 pcm

**Westbourne Court, West-
bourne Road, Wednesbury**



*2 BEDROOM *WEDNESBURY *FLAT *FIRST FLOOR *RECEPTION HALL *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *ELECTRIC COOKER *BATHROOM *ELECTRIC HEATING *BLINDS TO WINDOWS *CAR PARKING SPACE
£400 pcm

Avern Close, Tipton **NEW**



*1 BEDROOM *TIPTON *APARTMENT *FIRST FLOOR *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *OVEN/HOB *BEDROOM WITH WARDROBES *BATHROOM WITH SHOWER *ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE
£400 pcm

**Chaucer Avenue,
Willenhall**



*1 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *APARTMENT *RECEPTION HALL *FITTED KITCHEN *LOUNGE *DOUBLE BEDROOM *BATHROOM WITH SHOWER *COMMUNAL GARDEN *DOUBLE GLAZED *GAS CENTRAL HEATING
£375 pcm

**Merstone Close,
Bilston**



*1 BEDROOM *BILSTON *FLAT *GROUND FLOOR *ENTRANCE HALL *LOUNGE *FITTED KITCHEN *COMMUNAL GARDEN *ALLOCATED PARKING SPACE
£375 pcm

**Keelinge Street,
Tipton** **NEW**



*1 BEDROOM *TIPTON *FIRST FLOOR MAISONETTE *LOUNGE *MODERN FITTED KITCHEN *DOUBLE BEDROOM *BATHROOM *DOUBLE GLAZED *MOTORWAY NETWORKS *DUDLEY PORT STATION
£375 pcm

**Moxhull Gardens,
Willenhall**



*2 BEDROOM *WILLENHALL *TERRACED *FITTED KITCHEN/DINER *LOUNGE *BATHROOM *GAS CENTRAL HEATING *DOUBLE GLAZED *COMMUNAL GARDEN *COMMUNAL PARKING
£360 pcm

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WILLENHALL LONGWOOD RISE

- * Pleasantly appointed semi detached
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * Popular location off Strand Avenue
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Garage and ample parking

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £139,950, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL MOSELEY ROAD

- * Pleasant improved traditional style
- * Key fronted semi
- * Three bedrooms
- * Spacious refitted dining kitchen
- * Upstairs fitted bathroom with corner bath and separate shower cubicle
- * Gas central heating
- * Left room with loft ladder
- * Garage and off road parking
- * Majority uPVC double glazing

WAS £124,950 NOW £119,950



WILLENHALL EVENLODE GROVE, RIVERPOINT

- * Pleasantly appointed modern style semi
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Three bedrooms
- * En suite shower room
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazed windows
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Garage and off road parking

£154,950 OFFERS



WILLENHALL FIVEFIELDS ROAD

- * Traditional style semi detached
- * Popular and much requested location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * In need of external modernisation with excellent potential to improve
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * Detached rear garden

£124,950 OFFERS - NO CHAIN



SHORT HEATH WOODSIDE WAY

- * Pleasantly appointed semi in popular Woodlands development
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating, uPVC double glazing
- * Fitted bathroom and white suite
- * Refined kitchen inc. oven, hob and dishwasher
- * Rear garden with wooden views
- * Black paved driveway
- * Moving essential

WAS £124,995 NOW £119,950



COPPICE FARM NEVIS GROVE

- * Pleasant modern style semi-detached property
- * Two bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes
- * Gas central heating uPVC double glazed windows
- * Spacious 14ft front lounge
- * Fitted bathroom with shower
- * Pleasant rear garden
- * Garage and ample parking

WAS £125,000 NOW £119,995



WILLENHALL UPLANDS AVENUE

- * Pleasantly appointed traditional style detached bungalow
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Two bedrooms
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Gas central heating
- * Spacious 20ft lounge/dining room
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Generous landscaped side and rear gardens

£145,000 OFFERS



WILLENHALL UPLANDS ROAD

- * Spacious extended traditional style detached bungalow
- * Corner plot position
- * Two bedrooms and left room
- * Majority uPVC double glazing
- * Gas central heating
- * 18ft extended lounge
- * Separate sitting room
- * Double garage and off road parking

£140,000 OFFERS - NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL WILLENHALL ROAD

- * Beautifully presented and terraced property
- * Traditional features and modern living
- * Three bedrooms
- * General lounge and separate sitting room
- * Refined dining kitchen with integrated appliances
- * uPVC double heating
- * Refined bathroom with white suite and shower over bath

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £99,950



NEW INVENTION LICHFIELD ROAD

- * End town house style property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * 17ft fitted dining kitchen
- * Upstairs bathroom with white suite
- * Ideal first time purchase
- * No related chain

£94,950 OFFERS



WILLENHALL HAWKSWELL DRIVE

- * Pleasantly appointed, much improved modern style semi
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Refitted kitchen with appliances
- * Fitted bathroom with Jacuzzi type bath
- * Carpet and block paved driveway

£110,000 OFFERS



WILLENHALL WILLIAMS CLOSE

- * Pleasant semi-detached property
- * Popular cul-de-sac location
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Double glazed windows
- * Garage and off road parking
- * 'L' shaped lounge/dining room
- * 18ft extended lounge
- * Upstairs bathroom with shower cubicle

£130,000 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



NEW INVENTION BRERETON ROAD

- * Traditional style end town house in popular location
- * Three bedrooms
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Separate dining room
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob, microwave and washing machine
- * Ideal first time purchase

WAS £94,950 NOW £89,950



WILLENHALL TAVERNERS CLOSE

- * Pleasantly appointed first floor flat
- * One bedroom
- * Lounge
- * Fitted kitchen
- * Double glazing
- * Bathroom with white suite
- * Allocated parking
- * Ideal first time buy or buy to let

£74,995 OFFERS IN THE REGION



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- * Ideal for first time purchasers
- * Popular location near to Pool Hayes School
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Gardens and off road parking

£96,995 OFFERS



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- * Ideal for first time purchasers
- * Popular location near to Pool Hayes School
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Gardens and off road parking

£96,995 OFFERS



WILLENHALL KINVER AVENUE

- * Pleasantly appointed town house style property
- * Ideal for first time purchasers
- * Popular location near to Pool Hayes School
- * Two bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Gardens and off road parking

£96,995 OFFERS



WILLENHALL NEWLANDS CLOSE

- * Pleasant first floor maisonette windows
- * Popular and convenient location
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Two bedrooms
- * uPVC DG
- * Was £74,950 NOW £69,950 NO CHAIN
- * 13ft rear lounge
- * uPVC double heating
- * Garage in block to the side



WILLENHALL CHATSWORTH CLOSE

- * End town house style property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority uPVC double glazing
- * Generous rear garden
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Ideal first time buy

WAS £99,950 NOW £94,950



WILLENHALL CHATSWORTH CLOSE

- * End town house style property
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * Majority uPVC double glazing
- * Generous rear garden
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Cul-de-sac position
- * Ideal first time buy

WAS £99,950 NOW £94,950



BENTLEY, WALSALL ATTLE ROAD

- * Superb four bedroom extended semi
- * Gas central heating
- * Part uPVC double glazed
- * Block paved driveway
- * 19ft through lounge
- * Ground floor bedroom with guest WC
- * Fitted kitchen and side lobby
- * Pleasant rear garden

£125,000



WILLENHALL BARNETT ROAD

- * Much improved traditional style end town house
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Refined breakfast kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * Refined bathroom with shower
- * Off road parking

£84,995 OFFERS



COPPICE FARM ESTATE LONG MYND CLOSE

- * Splendidly appointed detached property
- * Three bedrooms
- * En suite shower room
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * Garage and off road parking

£172,500



COPPICE FARM ESTATE HEBDON GROVE

- * Spacious modern style detached residence
- * Four bedrooms
- * En-suite shower room
- * Lounge and dining room
- * Conservatory
- * Through reception hall
- * Garage and block paved driveway
- * Refined bathroom

£219,995



WILLENHALL STONEHOUSE AVENUE

- * Splendidly appointed three bedroom property
- * Two reception rooms
- * Spacious uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory

£159,995



WILLENHALL STONEHOUSE AVENUE

- * Splendidly appointed three bedroom property
- * Two reception rooms
- * Spacious uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory

£159,995



NEW INVENTION GLAMIS ROAD

- * Pleasantly appointed extended end detached property
- * Popular location three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory

£174,950 OFFERS



NEW INVENTION SANDLAND ROAD

- * Spacious four bedroom semi-detached property
- * Two reception rooms
- * Part uPVC double glazed windows
- * Kitchen and store room/utility
- * Bathroom with white suite and shower
- * Rear garden
- * A family home offering excellent potential
- * No chain

WAS £120,000 NOW £117,995 - NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL FARBROOK WAY, SUMMER HAYES

- * Pleasantly appointed extended semi
- * Corner plot position
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * uPVC DG conservatory
- * Gas CI
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows

£142,500



WILLENHALL FARBROOK WAY, SUMMER HAYES

- * Pleasantly appointed extended semi
- * Corner plot position
- * Three bedrooms
- * Two reception rooms
- * uPVC DG conservatory
- * Gas CI
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows
- * uPVC DG windows

£142,500



WEDNESFIELD COLMAN AVENUE

- * Traditional style semi-detached property
- * Central heating & Double glazing
- * Lounge
- * Extended sitting/dining room
- * uPVC double glazing
- * Three bedrooms
- * Double garage to the fore
- * Front and rear gardens
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazing

£114,995 OFFERS



WILLENHALL SHEPHERD DRIVE

- * End town house style property near to Pool Hayes school
- * Three bedrooms
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory
- * Gas central heating
- * uPVC double glazing
- * uPVC double glazed windows
- * uPVC double glazed conservatory

£110,000 OFFERS

Willenhall
01902 631151

Wednesfield
01902 732324

Tipton
0121 520 2255

Wednesbury
0121 505 1818

Bilston
01902 353578

Sedgley
01902 686868

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COPPICE FARM, WILLENHALL BOWNESS GROVE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed modern style detached family residence
- ★ First bathroom, on suite shower room
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ En-suite shower room
- ★ Fitted breakfast kitchen inc. oven and hob
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Gas central heating

£224,950 Viewing Essential



WILLENHALL EWHURST CLOSE

- ★ Pleasant extended four bedroom detached family residence
- ★ Popular (Holeys) health location
- ★ Corner plot position
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Majority uPVC double glazing
- ★ Extended lounge and hallway
- ★ 20ft tandem length garage
- ★ Lovely established gardens to front, rear and side

£169,950 OFFERS



WILLENHALL EWHURST CLOSE

- ★ Majority uPVC double glazing
- ★ Extended lounge and hallway
- ★ 20ft tandem length garage
- ★ Lovely established gardens to front, rear and side



ESSINGTON WILLOW GROVE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed extended modern style detached family residence
- ★ Popular Essington village location
- ★ Four excellent bedrooms, three with wardrobes
- ★ En-suite shower
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Spacious 17ft breakfast/dining kitchen
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom

WAS £254,950 NOW £249,995 Viewing Essential



ESSINGTON WILLOW GROVE

- ★ En-suite shower
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Spacious 17ft breakfast/dining kitchen
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom



WILLENHALL SENNEN CLOSE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed modern style detached property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Well equipped fitted dining kitchen
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Generous plot with potential to extend (subject to planning)

£169,500 OFFERS



WILLENHALL SENNEN CLOSE

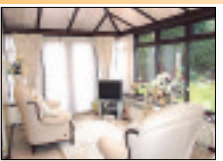
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Well equipped fitted dining kitchen
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Generous plot with potential to extend (subject to planning)



WEDNESFIELD LONGMORE CLOSE, OFF BROAD LANE SOUTH

- ★ Superbly appointed modern detached residence
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ 10ft through lounge
- ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob & refrigerator
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom
- ★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows

WAS £199,950 NOW £189,995 Viewing Essential



WEDNESFIELD LONGMORE CLOSE, OFF BROAD LANE SOUTH

- ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven, hob & refrigerator
- ★ Downstairs guest cloakroom
- ★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows



ESSINGTON SNEYD LANE

- ★ Traditional style bay fronted detached property
- ★ Popular and much requested location
- ★ In need of modernisation
- ★ Excellent potential for improvement
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Part uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Solid fuel central heating system

£149,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL SENNEN CLOSE

- ★ Modern style detached property
- ★ Generous corner position
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Potential to extend (subject to planning permission)
- ★ No related chain

£160,000 OFFERS



COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- ★ Immaculately presented, modern style town house
- ★ Open aspects to front of property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- ★ Refitted bathroom with corner bath and shower over
- ★ Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing
- ★ Garage and off road parking

£145,000 FIXED PRICE



COPPICE FARM BUTTERMERE GROVE

- ★ Refitted kitchen with integrated appliances
- ★ Refitted bathroom with corner bath and shower over
- ★ Gas central heating and uPVC double glazing
- ★ Garage and off road parking



WILLENHALL FARMHOUSE ROAD, CORNER BENTLEY LANE

- ★ Spacious modern style detached residence
- ★ Pleasantly appointed accommodation
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Master bedroom with en-suite shower room
- ★ Lounge and dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Gas central heating, double glazed windows

OFFERS IN EXCESS OF £169,995 NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL FARMHOUSE ROAD, CORNER BENTLEY LANE

- ★ Lounge and dining room
- ★ Fitted kitchen inc. oven and hob
- ★ Garage and off road parking
- ★ Gas central heating, double glazed windows



SNEYD PARK, WILLENHALL CRANLEIGH CLOSE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed extended semi detached property
- ★ Much sought after Sneyd Park location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Extended refitted dining kitchen
- ★ Double glazing and gas central heating
- ★ Family bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage and block paved driveway
- ★ Newly established rear garden with paved patio

£162,500 OFFERS



SNEYD PARK, WILLENHALL CRANLEIGH CLOSE

- ★ Double glazing and gas central heating
- ★ Family bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage and block paved driveway
- ★ Newly established rear garden with paved patio



WILLENHALL MILL LANE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed detached family residence
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Well equipped fitted kitchen
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Black paved driveway

£159,950 OFFERS, NO CHAIN



WILLENHALL MILL LANE

- ★ Well equipped fitted kitchen
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazed windows
- ★ Black paved driveway



WILLENHALL TRETOOTS DRIVE

- ★ Splendidly appointed and considerably improved semi detached
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ uPVC double glazing
- ★ Refitted kitchen inc. appliances
- ★ Refitted bathroom with shower
- ★ Garage and block paved drive

£139,995 Viewing Essential



SUMMER HAYES, WILLENHALL EATON RISE

- ★ Decisively spacious extended link detached bungalow
- ★ Cal-de-sac position
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ 23ft family room/utility room
- ★ Bathroom with white suite and separate shower garden
- ★ Large established rear garden
- ★ Exposed lounge, dining area and sitting room
- ★ 23ft family room/utility room
- ★ Bathroom with white suite and separate shower garden
- ★ Large established rear garden

WAS £196,950 NOW £189,995



COPPICE FARM TORRIDON ROAD

- ★ Splendidly appointed modern style bungalow
- ★ Beautifully presented accommodation throughout
- ★ Two bedrooms, bath with hob to washroom
- ★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Smart fitted kitchen including appliances throughout
- ★ Fitted bathroom with Veroa roof window
- ★ Block paved driveway
- ★ Young essential

£155,000 OFFERS



WILLENHALL YORK AVENUE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi detached
- ★ Popular County Bridge location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazing
- ★ Excellent refitted kitchen with appliances
- ★ Fitted bathroom with shower
- ★ Block paved driveway

£133,500 OFFERS

PROPERTIES TO RENT



NEW INVENTION BALMORAL DRIVE

- ★ Semi detached property in popular location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ uPVC double glazing
- ★ First floor bathroom
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ The property is currently undergoing refurbishment
- ★ Available mid April

£550 PCM



WEDNESFIELD VICTORIA ROAD

- ★ Beautifully presented traditional villa style mid terrace property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Fitted dining kitchen
- ★ Gas central heating & uPVC double glazed
- ★ Bathroom with electric shower over bath
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Refurbished

£550 PCM



WEDNESFIELD NORDLEY ROAD

- ★ Mid terrace property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Kitchen diner
- ★ Two reception rooms
- ★ Downstairs WC
- ★ Large garden

£525 PCM



FALLINGS PARK WOLSELEY GATE, OFF PARK LANE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed detached property
- ★ Three bedrooms all with built in wardrobes
- ★ 21ft Lounge
- ★ Fitted breakfast kitchen
- ★ New double glazing & gas central heating
- ★ Enclosed rear yard & detached parking
- ★ Refurbished, available immediately

£500 PCM



WEDNESFIELD WODEN CRESCENT

- ★ Pleasant semi detached in quiet cul-de-sac
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating and double glazing
- ★ Lounge with feature fireplace
- ★ Kitchen with feature fireplace
- ★ Dining kitchen and downstairs WC
- ★ Bathroom with white suite and shower over bath
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Off road parking

£475 PCM



BILSTON KEMSEY DRIVE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed mid terrace property
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Lounge with feature fire place
- ★ Fitted kitchen with casher
- ★ Gas central heating and double glazing
- ★ Gas central heating and double glazing
- ★ Enclosed rear garden
- ★ Refurbished

£495 PCM



COPPICE FARM TORRIDON ROAD

- ★ Splendidly appointed modern style bungalow
- ★ Beautifully presented accommodation throughout
- ★ Two bedrooms, bath with hob to washroom
- ★ Gas central heating, uPVC double glazed windows
- ★ uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Superb uPVC double glazed conservatory
- ★ Smart fitted kitchen including appliances throughout
- ★ Fitted bathroom with Veroa roof window
- ★ Block paved driveway
- ★ Young essential

£155,000 OFFERS



WILLENHALL YORK AVENUE

- ★ Pleasantly appointed traditional style semi detached
- ★ Popular County Bridge location
- ★ Three bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Double glazing
- ★ Excellent refitted kitchen with appliances
- ★ Fitted bathroom with shower
- ★ Block paved driveway

£133,500 OFFERS



BILSTON WALLACE ROAD

- ★ First floor apartment
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Gas central heating
- ★ Fitted kitchen
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ Off road parking
- ★ Rear garden
- ★ Unfurnished

£345 PCM



WILLENHALL BOW STREET

- ★ Two bed terrace property
- ★ Newly refurbished
- ★ Central heated
- ★ Double glazed
- ★ Lounge
- ★ New dining kitchen
- ★ New bathroom with shower
- ★ Near Willenhall Town Centre

£375 PCM



WILLENHALL BIRCH COPPICE GARDENS

- ★ First floor maisonette
- ★ One bedroom
- ★ Kitchen with cooker
- ★ Bathroom with shower
- ★ uPVC double glazing
- ★ Unfurnished

£325 PCM

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201-205 Stubbers Green Road, Aldridge

Viewing 4th, 20th May at 2.00pm and 14th May at 12.00pm

**LOT 1**

A unique opportunity to purchase a block of three virtually identical terraced properties as an investment opportunity set on a good size plot with possible redevelopment potential and ample off street parking. The three properties all benefit from double glazing and gas central heating and comprise: Lounge, inner hallway, living room, rear lobby, bathroom, two bedrooms, off street parking and rear garden.

GUIDE PRICE: £150,000-£160,000

3 Trees Road, Walsall

Viewing: 10th and 19th May at 11.30am

**LOT**

This traditionally styled semi detached residence is situated in this popular residential area and benefits from gas fired central heating and double glazing and is in need of improvement and modernisation. Constructed of brick under a pitch tiled roof the property is set back from the road behind a small fore garden and comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, front living room, rear lounge, kitchen, guest wc, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, fore and rear garden.

GUIDE PRICE: £80,000-£90,000

55 Broadstone Avenue, Walsall

Viewing: 7th, 11th and 20th May at 10am

**LOT 3**

GUIDE PRICE: £80,000-£90,000

Traditional styled semi detached: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, wc, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, fore and rear gardens.

94 Gipsy Lane, Willenhall

Viewing: 23rd May at 2.30pm and 5th and 14th May at 10.30am

**NEW GUIDE PRICE****LOT 4**

This traditionally styled brick and tile double fronted detached bungalow with gas fired central heating offers an ideal opportunity with development potential with large garage/workshop to side. Situated close to Willenhall centre the property comprises reception hall, lounge, two bedrooms, kitchen, refitted bathroom. Outside: Workshop, fore and rear gardens.

GUIDE PRICE: £50,000-£60,000

11a Stafford Road, Bloxwich

Viewing 7th, 11th and 20th May at 11am

**LOT 5**

This modern link detached bungalow residence is situated within a short distance of Bloxwich town centre with shopping, banking and other facilities available. Offering deceptively spacious accommodation, the property needs to be viewed internally to be fully appreciated and boasts the benefit of full gas fired central heating together with uPVC double glazing. Constructed of brick under a pitch tiled roof the former accommodation comprises the following: Enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, utility/sun room, refitted ground floor bathroom, three bedrooms, first floor bathroom, garage, driveway and rear garden.

GUIDE PRICE: £120,000-£130,000

385 Cannock Road, Cannock

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

**LOT 6**

GUIDE PRICE: £80,000 Plus

Traditional semi detached property: Hallway, lounge/dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, gardens, currently let on a periodic AST.

Land adjacent to 87 Prince Street, Walsall**LOT 7**

GUIDE PRICE: £5,000-£10,000

Amenity land suitable for possible car park use, subject to any planning permission.

94 Longwood Road, Aldridge

Viewing: Strictly by appointment with the Auctioneers

**LOT 8**

This freehold, highly deceptive truly spacious family home enjoys views over open countryside to the rear and has substantial additional paddock. The accommodation over three floors comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, guest cloakroom/wc, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, office/bedroom four, loft, garage, fore and rear garden, paddock.

GUIDE PRICE: £300,000-£330,000

37 The Grove, Walsall

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers

**LOT 9**

GUIDE PRICE: £70,000-£80,000

This semi detached property has double glazing and gas fired central heating and is situated in the present location overlooking the green. Ideally suited to the needs of a first time buyer or investor. The property comprises: Reception hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen opening into uPVC conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking and rear garden.

29 Highgate Road, Walsall

Viewing: 10th and 19th May at 12pm

**LOT 10**

This traditionally styled brick and tile Victorian mid terraced residence offers spacious well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing. Situated in a highly regarded residential area the property offers scope for further improvement and comprises: Enclosed porch, entrance hall, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, utility room/wc, four bedrooms, bathroom, small foregarden, enclosed rear garden.

GUIDE PRICE:
£110,000-£130,000

21 Lonsdale Road, Walsall

Viewing 10th and 19th May at 11.00am

**LOT**

This traditionally styled double fronted semi detached property is situated in one of South Walsall's most prestigious residential areas. Boasting the benefit of gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing the property is set back from the road behind a neat foregarden flanked by a block paved driveway leading to garage. The interior accommodation, which is well appointed and maintained, comprises of the following: Entrance hall, guest wc, lounge, dining room, kitchen, garage, utility, three bedrooms, fore and rear gardens with off street parking.

GUIDE PRICE: £170,000-£190,000

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Refitted apartment with two bedrooms

Located in what the selling agent describes as "a lovely mature tree-studded neighbourhood" some one-and-a-half miles west of the city centre, this first floor apartment has a range of attractive features.

The two-bedroomed home, at 38, The Lindens, Newbridge, is close to an excellent range of amenities, including shops, a tennis and squash club with a fully-equipped gym and the ever popular Tettenthall Green, which is roughly a mile away.

Sale of the apartment is being managed by the Tettenthall office of estate agent Bartlams, with offers invited in the region of £89,950.

The agent advises that this home has been refitted and refurbished to a very high standard.

Briefly, the home comprises an entrance hall, what the agent describes as a "lovely lounge" with a Juliet balcony, a refitted kitchen with built-in appliances, two double bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, a re-fitted bathroom, uPVC double glazing, electric storage heating, a single garage and attractive communal gardens.

Another incentive is that the current owner has a long lease of 140 years on the property, starting from 2007.

Approaching, the apartment block lies back from the road behind neatly maintained lawns with conifers.

A door opens into a communal entrance hall, with a staircase to the first floor.

Arriving at number 38, a door opens into a hallway with an airing cupboard housing the hot water cylinder. Measuring 14ft x 11ft 5in, the lounge has a window at the



This two-bedroomed apartment has been refitted and refurbished to a very high standard

rear overlooking the communal grounds, a double-glazed door to the Juliet balcony and a storage heater.

Contemporary

With dimensions of 9ft 6in x 10ft, the stylish, contemporary kitchen has what the agent says is an "excellent" range of wall and base units, including fitted drawers and rollout worksurfaces, an inset stainless steel sink, a front-facing window and a built-in double electric oven with ceramic hob and extractor above. Plumbing is fitted for a washing machine and there is ceramic tiled flooring and storage shelves.

Bedroom one measures 14ft 2in x 10ft 6in, with a rear-facing window, a built-in

partly mirror-fronted wardrobe and a storage heater.

Bedroom two has dimensions of 10ft 6in x 9ft 5in, with a side-facing window, a storage heater and built-in partly mirror-fronted wardrobes.

In the refitted bathroom, there is a modern white suite with chrome fittings comprising a panelled bath with electric shower over, a pedestal wash basin with mixer taps and a low-level WC. There is a service charge for the exterior, currently levied at £576 per year as a contribution towards communal expenditure.

Visit www.bartlams.co.uk, email tettenthallsales@bartlams.co.uk or call 01902 754777 to arrange a viewing.

K.Stuart Swash

PROPERTY AUCTION - 7TH JUNE 2011

RESIDENTIAL FREEHOLDS with VACANT POSSESSION

20 FINCHFIELD LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Fine detached on large plot. Reception Hall, Fitted Cloakroom Through Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility & WC, Galleried Landing, Four Bedrooms, Bathroom, Through Garage, Long Rear Garden

Guide: £240,000/£260,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY 20th & SATURDAY 21st MAY @ 9.30 am

43 WARSTONES ROAD, PENN

Individual Detached Bungalow close to shops. Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, White Bathroom, Carport, Gardens

Guide: £73,000/£78,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY 20th & SATURDAY 21st MAY @ 10.30 am

255 WARSTONES ROAD, PENN

Spacious Three Bed Semi in good location. Large Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Bathroom, Garage and Off Road Parking, Rear Garden

Guide: £98,000/£105,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY 20th & SATURDAY 21st MAY @ 11.15 am

27 REDHILL AVENUE, WOMBOURNE

Spacious Three Bedroomed Semi within a pleasant residential cul-de-sac. Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Bathroom, Gas CH, WC & Store, Large Rear Garden and Deep Foregarden

Guide: £70,000/£75,000 VIEWING: FRIDAY 20th & SATURDAY 21st MAY @ 12.15 pm

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT - REGULATED TENANCY

28 GREAT BRIDGE ROAD, BILSTON

Three Bed Semi with Deep Foregarden. Hall Lounge, Kitchen, Shower Room.

Offered subject to tenancy - Registered Rent £57.00 per week

Guide: £39,000/£44,000 VIEWING: MONDAY 23rd MAY @ 3.45 pm

FREEHOLD COMMERCIAL INVESTMENTS

Nos. 2 & 3, CROSS STREET, WILLENHALL

Close to Centre - Two adjacent Shop Units with additional First Floor Rooms. Current Income - £11,020 p.a.x.

Guide: £80,000/£90,000 VIEWING: MONDAY 23rd MAY @ 2.30 pm

77B STAFFORD STREET, WILLENHALL

Self-contained double fronted Shop Premises - approx 310 sq ft with additional Store and WC. Vacant Possession.

Guide: £28,000/£33,000 VIEWING: THURSDAY 19th & FRIDAY 20th MAY @ 11.00 am

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Viewing of all Lots at own risk

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Whitehouse Court
Broad Street, Broomsgrove

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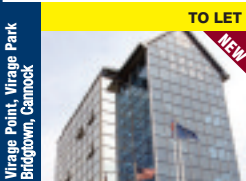
Offices / small niche retail uses. Units available now from 300 to 600 sqft. Just off A34 / A5 and M6 toll J 77 dedicated car parking. Attractive large shop windows. Flexible lease terms.



Birch Business Park
Progress Drive, Cannock

TO LET

Small starter / storage units available now to let. Roller shutter door access / WCs. Well located close to A5, A34 and M6 toll. Flexible lease terms available.



Virage Point, Virage Park
Bridgton, Cannock

TO LET

Offices to let - available now. 3 x 1000 to 1400 sqft each. Prominent location on A34, A5, M6 J11 and J17 of the M6 toll road. Available on flexible lease terms.

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Offers around £289,950



BRINDLE ROAD, NEAR TAMEBRIDGE

- Modern three bed three storey townhouse
- Garage to rear ● Hall ● Downstairs WC
- Lounge ● Conservatory ● Fitted Kitchen
- Master bedroom with En suite and Dressing room
- Family Bathroom ● Front and rear gardens

Offers around £149,950



LILAC AVENUE, YEW TREE

- Well presented two bed semi
- Gas ch & upvc d/g ● Lounge/dining room
- Fitted kitchen ● Downstairs wc
- Upstairs bathroom ● Rear garden
- Driveway ● Garage

Offers around £129,950



PARKLAND GARDENS, BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WALSALL

- Beautifully Presented Two Bed Second Floor Apartment ● Electric Heating and UPVC D/G ● Hall ● Attractive Lounge
- Modern Fitted Kitchen ● Stylish Bathroom
- Communal Gardens ● GARAGE

Offers around £112,950



EDWARD COURT, BIRMINGHAM ROAD

- Well presented two bed second floor flat
- Gas ch & upvc d/g ● Hall ● Lounge
- Fitted dining kitchen ● Bathroom
- Communal gardens
- Covered parking space

Offers around £89,950



HIGHGATE ROAD, HIGHGATE

- Well presented two bed ground floor apartment ● Communal areas ● over 55s ● Hall
- Upvc d/g & Electric heating ● delightful Lounge ● fitted Kitchen ● Shower room
- Overlooking Gardens ● Communal car park

Offers around £49,950

RENTAL PROPERTIES

Mellish Park, Walsall,	2 bed apartments	£699 PCM
Parkview Crescent, Reedswood	3 bed detached	£595 PCM
Station Road, Rushall,	3 bed town house	£625 PCM
Pimpernel Drive, Tamebridge	2 bed town house	£495 PCM
Waterfront Way, Walsall	2 bed apartment	Reduced to £475 PCM
Caledon Street, Pleck	3 bed semi	£425 PCM
Crown Lofts, Town Centre	1 bed flat	£425 PCM
Pommel Close, Silverdale	2 bed maisonnette	£415 PCM
Rowley Street, Chuckery	1 bed flat	£350 PCM

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Cul-de-sac semi needs a viewing



This three-bedroom home has been extensively improved by the owners



There is a wide range of appliances in the kitchen.



Rooms are decorated in various modern colour schemes

According to the selling agent, this detached family home, situated in a peaceful cul-de-sac, "must be viewed".

The three-bedroom home, in Marden Close, Willenhall, has been extensively improved, refurbished and upgraded, including gas central heating and double glazing.

Estate agent Paul Dubberley is managing the sale of this stylish freehold home, inviting offers in the region of £149,995.

Briefly, the home comprises a reception hall, a lounge, a re-fitted kitchen, sitting room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, rear gardens, a block-paved driveway and a garage.

On the ground floor, a hallway leads to the lounge, which has dimensions of 14ft 1in x 11ft 8in.

Refitted

In the refitted kitchen/diner, measuring 14ft 8in x 9ft 11in, there is a wide range of contemporary wall and base units, along with all the necessary fittings for appliances.

On the first floor, the master bedroom measures 12ft 5in x 8ft 3in, the second 9ft 2in x 6ft 11in and the third 7ft 9in x 6ft 9in.

The bathroom has been recently refitted with a luxurious modern suite.

At the front of the house, a block-paved driveway has space for several vehicles and leads to a garage.

To the rear, there is a private garden planted with a wide range of established shrubs and trees.

For more information, contact the agent on 01902 633323.

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WALSALL ROAD
WILLENHALL



BEAUTIFUL TOWN HOUSE
3 Bed 3 Storey £550

HARGREAVES STREET
WOLVERHAMPTON



RECENTLY REFURBISHED
2 Bed Terrace £425

TENNYSYON ROAD
WILLENHALL



SPACIOUS GROUND FLOOR
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MELDON DRIVE
BRADLEY BILSTON



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61 Follyhouse Lane, Walsall

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through auctioneers



Traditional Victorian mid-terrace residence situated in a quiet residential area, ideal for a first time buyer or investor. The well appointed gas centrally heated and part double glazed accommodation needs to be viewed to appreciate the following dining room, lounge, inner hallway, fitted kitchen, breakfast room, two double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, fore and neat private enclosed rear gardens

LOT 12

GUIDE PRICE £75,000 - £85,000

33 Church Street, Bloxwich

Viewing: 7th, 11th and 20th May at 10.30 am



GUIDE PRICE: £60,000 - £70,000

This traditionally styled mid-terrace residence offers spacious well planned living accommodation situated close to Bloxwich town centre with all facilities provided by in need of complete modernisation and improvement. The brick and tile accommodation comprises the following Reception Hall, lounge, rear living room, kitchen, lobby, bathroom, three bedrooms, additional room, fire and rear garden

40 Parklands Gardens, Walsall

Viewing: Strictly by appointment through Auctioneers



GUIDE PRICE: £58,000 - £63,000

This purpose built ground floor studio apartment situated just off the Birmingham Road this popular residential development. Set amongst a communal garden the property has an advantage of attached garage which can be accessed from inside the apartment which comprises: hallway, bedroom area, open plan living area with kitchen and garage

52 Wolverhampton Road West, Walsall

Viewing 23rd May at 3pm 5th & 14th May at 11am



GUIDE PRICE: £150,000 - £160,000

This modern styled detached house has a double garage and garden and is situated in a quiet residential area. The property has a large front garden and a rear garden. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented.

2 Moat Farm Way, Pelsall

Viewing: 7th, 11th and 20th May at 11.30 am



GUIDE PRICE: £155,000 - £175,000

The modern detached house is set on a good size corner plot with a large front garden and a rear garden. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented. The property is a good example of a modern detached house and is well presented.

54 Holly Lane, Smethwick

Viewing: 3rd, 11th and 19th May at 2 pm



GUIDE PRICE: £135,000 - £155,000

This traditionally styled Victorian double-fronted mid-terrace residence offers truly spacious, well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating. The property comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, dining area, living room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking, fore and rear gardens

64 Wolverhampton Street, Darlaston

Viewing: 23rd May at 2 pm, 5th and 14th May at 10 am



GUIDE PRICE: £40,000 - £50,000

This traditionally styled Victorian double-fronted mid-terrace residence offers truly spacious, well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating. The property comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, dining area, living room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, off street parking, fore and rear gardens

17 Norman Road, Walsall

Viewing: 10th and 19th May at 10.00 am



GUIDE PRICE: £180,000 - £200,000

This traditionally styled Victorian double-fronted mid-terrace residence offers truly spacious, well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating. The property comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., double garage, driveway, fore and rear gardens

13 Edinburgh Road, Walsall

Viewing: 10th and 19th May at 10.30 am



GUIDE PRICE: £230,000 - £250,000

This traditionally styled Victorian double-fronted mid-terrace residence offers truly spacious, well planned accommodation with the benefit of gas fired central heating. The property comprises: Enclosed porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate w.c., double garage, driveway, fore and rear gardens

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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Alfa revives a pedigree with chic and charisma

By Peter Carroll

AS ALFA ROMEO prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary in June, the Italian firm's latest model revives one of the most evocative names from its glorious past: The Giulietta.

Few car companies can match Alfa Romeo for sporting pedigree and it remains by some distance the most glamorous of the mainstream marques. But pedigree and glamour count for little unless you are shifting metal – and these days loss-making Alfa needs to start selling more cars in order to remain viable.

With that in mind the Turin-based firm has revived the Giulietta, one of the most charismatic names from its distinguished heritage, to do battle in the cut-throat mid-sized hatchback sector of the market.

While Alfa of old were traditionally all about driver appeal and effortless chic, these days the more workmanlike qualities of solidity and reliability are required too.

Still, there's enough Italian flair and style about the design of the Giulietta to keep the most ardent of Alfisti happy, from the chiselled front, with its 8C-style compact grille, to the elegantly rounded proportions of the rear.

From the side, it admittedly resembles a SEAT Leon but then that was designed by Alfa old boy Walter de Silva anyway.

The new Giulietta is some 16 per cent bigger than its predecessor, the 147, which probably does not count for much, as space was never a plus point in the former.

The Giulietta does feel slightly tight for space in the back but at least there's a decent sized boot, which you open by pressing the Alfa badge.

The cabin is not as dramatic as that of the Brera, or even the 159, but is nevertheless stylish and distinguished by a row of centrally located toggle switches with a designer feel.

Interior quality looks decent, though you'd ideally need to own one for a few months to see if it remained free of rattles and squeaks.

The leather seats in the test car, a top-of-the-range 170hp Veloce 2.0 litre diesel, were good and I found it easy to get comfortable behind the wheel – something that could not be said of every Alfa in the past.

If, like me, you tend to associate Alfas with revvy engines and light, deft steering, you'll find neither present in the Veloce diesel. The soundtrack from under the bonnet is more mundane, while the steering is accurate but on the weighty side – and it gets even heavier if you press the Dynamic button on the "DNA" selector panel.

This panel, under the centre console, offers a choice of three driver settings, depending on road conditions.

The "A" position is for adverse weather conditions, while the default setting is "N" for normal. "D" for is "Dynamic" and employed when drivers wish to press on.

The throttle response becomes notably sharper and the car feels far quicker when this setting is engaged.

Not everyone will appreciate the extra steering weight that comes into play, however, and none of the settings can be customised.

All models in the Giulietta range benefit from Alfa's clever electronic Q2 differential which adjusts the power directed to the front wheels to boost traction through bends.

Competitive

Driven carefully, it should be possible to return 50mpg but hey, this is an Alfa and my consumption ended up in the low 40s, as I had it in "D" most of the time.

Running costs should be reasonable. The Giulietta can be driven frugally, CO2 emissions are competitive, and service intervals extend to over 20,000 miles. Insurance for the 170hp model is group 25 out of 50 but this falls to

group 20 if the 140hp model is chosen, and it's only slightly less quick.

The Giulietta feels solid and assured on the road rather than nervous and flighty. Ride quality is good and the car makes a decent fist of soaking up the bumps.

Too often in the past Alfas have represented the triumph of style over substance with poor reliability and inferior build quality leading to catastrophic residual values.

But the firm looks to be turning things round with cars like the MiTo and now the Giulietta. It's still too early to tell whether the Giulietta has the staying power to transform the fortunes of the loss-making, Fiat-owned brand – but it certainly possesses

enough panache to appeal as an alternative to the ubiquitous Focus, Golf or Astra hatchback offerings. There are plenty of other "boutique" offerings in this sector, however, ranging from the excellent value Citroen DS3 and forthcoming DS4 to Audi's A1 and VW's shapely Scirocco.

Alfa Romeo expects diesel Giuliettas to outsell petrol models in the UK, to the sort of driver who has to buy with the head as well as the heart.

But if you like the idea of an Alfa I still think you'd be better off – emotionally, if not financially – with a petrol Giulietta.



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Free prize draw to launch Crossrunner



Style and grace – the front and rear view of the Honda Crossrunner

Honda's much-anticipated Crossrunner is now in Honda Motorcycle dealerships across the UK and to celebrate its arrival, Honda (UK) is giving away a brand new Crossrunner as part of a Free Prize Draw.

Since its UK debut last November and recent test ride launch, the Crossrunner has sparked widespread interest.

Genuine

It has been raved about by motorcycling publications, such as Motor Cycle News which was "surprised by the seductive styling".

Motor Cycle Monthly claimed the Crossrunner as a "genuine do-it-all bike, capable of putting a huge smile on your face".

Available in red, white and black, and priced competitively at £9,075



The Honda Crossrunner comes in red, black and white

OTR, the Crossrunner has been available to test ride at dealerships from Saturday, May 14.

One lucky person will also win a brand new Crossrunner simply by visiting www.honda.co.uk and completing the on-line entry form, or by filling in an entry form in dealerships, by July 31.

Five runners-up will further receive a Honda experience day at either the Mick Extance Off-Road Experience

or Ron Haslam Race School, with a Sony Playstation 3 also on offer as a third prize.

And if you take a test ride of this great new all-rounder machine, Honda (UK) wants to hear your thoughts and you could also receive gift vouchers for the value of £15 for M&S or John Lewis.

Ask your dealer for a Crossrunner test-ride evaluation form by June 30, or download one from www.honda.co.uk, fill it in, ask your dealer to stamp it and send it in.

The Crossrunner's roomy, upright "Adventure" style provides all-round comfort.

But at the same time its nimble performance of a "Naked" and the responsiveness of its sports-touring chassis all combine to make the Crossrunner an ideal all-round machine. The machine is powered by the proven and legendary Honda VFR800 V4 engine.

The Crossrunner has also been designed with pillion comfort in mind

with a lower rear seat designed for easy mounting. Positioning the pillion at a similar level to the rider has resulted in improved wind protection and an enhanced ride feel for users.

Its ABS equipped braking system as standard further enhances the machine's performance and safety, while the wide handlebar configuration contributes to quick, accurate and responsive steering input.

Sleek

The versatility of this great all-round machine is extended further by a range of Honda Genuine accessories to include a 29-litre pannier kit and sleek 31-litre top box, heated grips and higher windscreens.

● For full details of Honda's new-for-2011 machines or any other model in Honda's great range, latest offers and forthcoming events, visit your local Honda dealer, go to www.honda.co.uk or call 0845 200 8000.

Speed kings of the track now on DVD

FOLLOWING good reviews, a hugely successful film premier in Leicester Square and sell-out screenings 'I, Superbiker' is now available to buy on DVD.

'I, Superbiker', is a no-holds barred full length motorcycling documentary film, directed by Mark Sloper (The Final Cut and Small Time Obsession) in association with the MCE Insurance sponsored British Superbike Championship (BSB) and Motorcycle News (MCN).

With the film score by David Vanian of The Damned, and music by Phil Collen of Def Leppard and Man Raze it is definitely a must see. This high-octane documentary is the first of its kind to closely follow the exploits of four

motorcycle racers as they compete in the hotly contested MCE Insurance-sponsored British Superbike Championship.

The film, shot in high definition, takes an intimate look at the two-wheel gladiators as they risk life and limb at each race meeting knowing that there can be only one champion.

Drama

As well as capturing stunning on-track action, the film goes behind the scenes to follow the unfolding drama among wives, girlfriends, teammates and managers. Everyone wants their rider to win and passions are aroused when things go wrong.

One of the four riders featured is the great British hope, Tommy Hill; having cheated

death at the age of 14 Tommy is now fearless and his parents have sacrificed their home, holidays and finances to support his burning ambition to be Britain's number 1 Superbike racer. Tommy commented: "British Superbikes is motorcycle racing at its very best and this film shows that brilliantly."

It's amazing to see BSB on the cinema screen. It's a massive sport with a great following."

Alongside Tommy Hill, 'I, Superbiker' is a revealing portrait of the highs and lows of fellow racers, James Ellison, Josh Brookes and Gary Mason, risking life and limb at every race meeting. Motorcycle fans and thrill seekers alike will be able to experience the gladiatorial speed, strength and tenacity of the riders.



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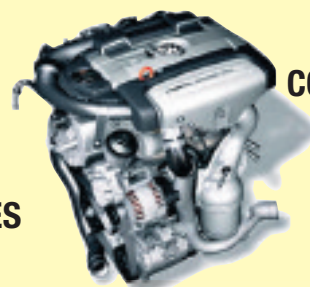
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Magazine title triumph for Citroën's supermini



Diesel Car magazine's car of the year – the Citroën DS3

THE Citroën DS3 has won the prestigious Car of the Year 2011 in Diesel Car magazine awards.

Diesel Car magazine has acclaimed the Citroën DS3 with two highly prestigious honours in its annual awards: Best Small Car and Overall Car of the Year 2011. With diesel-powered cars from every market segment eligible for the Car of the Year title, Citroën's premium quality supermini beat off competition from every market segment to take the award and was also the winner in its own sector, Best Small Car.

In its 24th year of publication, Diesel Car is recognised as an authority on the rapidly-evolving diesel market in the UK.

In its first year on sale, DS3 has transformed the supermini sector with its modern styling, unique personality and rewarding driving dynamics, which have taken total sales beyond 80,000 units.

"The Citroën DS3 has an ageless air about it, with a youthful exuber-

ance that gives it a trendy appeal, but at the same time exuding an enduring quality and substance," said Diesel Car editor, Ian Robertson.

"The driving experience combined a secure, planted feel with a peppy, grippy liveliness that makes it real fun behind the wheel."

The Diesel Car awards join DS3's many accolades including Car of the Year from Top Gear magazine, Small Car of the Year from Channel 5's Fifth Gear and Best Hot Hatch from CarBuyer.

Accolades

Other award winners include: The Jaguar XF which once again won the Best Executive Car category in the Diesel Car magazine awards – the fourth time the British-built XF has scooped the award.

Peugeot was also a winner after scooping a brace of accolades. Its ground-breaking 3008 Hybrid4 has won its first award – five months before it goes on sale in the UK. Awarded Diesel Car

magazine's Best Eco Car of 2011, the new model, which will use Peugeot's advanced diesel electric hybrid technology, will set a new benchmark for low CO2 emissions when it is launched come the autumn.

For the second year in succession, the magazine also crowned Peugeot's exciting RCZ – powered by its class-leading 2.0i HDi 163bhp engine – as its Sports Car of the Year.

Ian says: "It is svelte and sexy, the RCZ has the look of a supercar but without the ridiculous price tag."

"We love it for its styling pizzazz, for its torquey turbodiesel verve, and for the smile it plants across your face when you drive it."

These latest awards round off a fine 18 months for Peugeot UK which has won over a dozen major awards from the industry's media.

They include the What Car? Car of the Year 2010, Top Gear's Coupé of the Year and Fleet News Green Fleet Manufacturer of the Year 2011.



Team Lotus at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Left to right: Heikki Kovalainen, Tony Fernandes, Mike Gascoyne, Ansar Ali, Kamarudin Meranun and Jarno Trulli

Seven up! Team Lotus buys sporty Caterham Cars firm

A SPORTS car company is set for expansion after being bought by the company behind the Team Lotus Formula One squad.

Surrey-based Caterham Cars has been acquired by Team Lotus Enterprise (TLE).

It was Lotus Cars under its founder Colin Chapman which first designed the Lotus Seven, which has been built and distributed by Caterham Cars since 1973.

A green and yellow Lotus Seven was driven by actor Patrick McGeehan in the cult 1960s TV series The Prisoner.

The existing Surrey-based Caterham management team, headed by managing director Ansar Ali, will carry on.

Mr Ali said: "This is yet another exciting chapter in the Caterham story."

"Until now the resources Caterham has had at its disposal have, naturally, limited the exposure of the Caterham experience and the legendary Seven has had to rely almost entirely on its remarkable reputation and legacy."

Acquisition

"The acquisition of the company will allow our existing management team to take Caterham's core spirit of pure driving enjoyment to a hitherto unserved audience."

"While the Seven will now have the global springboard it deserves and will continue to be evolved yet further, we also have the

opportunity to expand the Caterham family beyond the Seven and SP/300.R and breathe new life into our uniquely respected brand and mature it into a truly global business."

TLE's Tony Fernandes said: "Caterham has a unique place at the heart of the motor-ing world."

"As well as being proudly and staunchly British, it has an enviable and uniquely unblemished reputation within the industry for performance, handling and engineering excellence."

To celebrate its new ownership, Caterham Cars will build a limited run of Team Lotus Special Edition Sevens, 25 for the home market and 25 for export.

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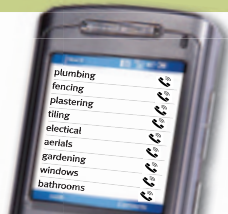
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Baby heartbreak of Saddlers star



Walsall's Richard Taundry had to make the hardest decision of his life

Parents must always put their children first and Richard Taundry has already made the most difficult call of all. As a footballer his career is played out in public. His private life is a different story.

The Walsall midfielder and fiancée Tanya Baggott lost baby son Kai after just 13 days following his premature birth in July last year.

The couple were helpless as they were told Kai wasn't going to survive following a bleed on his brain and faced the heart-wrenching decision of turning off his life support machine.

All this was the backdrop of the Saddlers' pre-season last year

as Richard became a contender for the captaincy.

Last weekend Walsall secured League One survival for another year. And while relegation isn't something any footballer wants to contemplate it's insignificant compared to the heartache the 22-year-old and his family have already suffered.

July 17, 2010 is seared in Richard's memory as the day he and Tanya said goodbye to their son and made the hardest decision of their lives.

"We had to make a decision which was best for Kai, not for us," says Richard, who also lost his dad Steve in September 2009.

Incubator

"It was inevitable but it was about how we were going to remember him – stuck in the incubator on machines or whether we wanted to hold him and that's what we did.

"Before he was born they told us he didn't have a chance of surviving the birth. Then little things went wrong and he just kept going and going. Gradually it got too much and they called us in and told us the situation. It broke our hearts.

"They took him off the machines and told us he would probably have an hour but he ended up going all through the night before we lost him.

"He was a fighter – more than me. We were grateful for the time we had, to be able to hold him and for what the hospital did for us."

It is those precious moments which keep the midfielder going but he admits he found it hard in the aftermath of his son's death. We had everything ready," he says, "and to have to go back and put everything away before your partner comes home so it doesn't upset her is difficult. It chips away

at you. There's no changing the past and all you can do is stick with your family.

"Straight away I was back into football as I didn't want to dwell on things and beat myself up.

"There's nothing which can help you take your mind off it but the lads were great with me."

"And while nothing will ever ease the pain, he says he and Tanya take comfort in their memories.

"We've got hundreds of photos, it wasn't easy but towards the end we got to hold him and we've got some beautiful pictures," said Richard, who met Tanya at Aldridge School when they were 14.

"We've got his ashes in a little box with a Walsall badge on it in the house so he's always with us.

"Any couple who go through that realise it can break you but the only way getting through it is sticking together. I'm a lot stronger now. I have stronger opinions – like how to treat family and friends – and going to visit people who you've drifted away from, like my aunts and uncles who I used to be close to when my dad was here."

Richard's loss wasn't the only heartache at Walsall last summer after secretary Dan Mole and wife Emma lost their unborn child in July, just 14 weeks into the pregnancy.

After a scan they were delivered the devastating news their baby had anencephaly, meaning the skull hadn't developed properly.

Medically, the baby was described as "not compatible with life", news that broke Dan and Emma's hearts.

"I lost my dad 10 years ago and that was horrendous, I still cry about that, but when

you lose your baby you're crying for what could have been for you and the little life which never had a chance," says Dan.

"What Emma went through is worse than what I ever did. She was amazing. How she coped with everything was awe inspiring."

Richard has similar admiration for his fiancée who has returned to work as a nursery nurse at Little Rascals in Aldridge.

"She had a lot of time off and going back in with kids isn't an ideal option but she's decided she's going back which is a good thing," he says.

Difficult

"It's difficult for her because she's around kids all the time but we look after my sister's little lad so she'll be all right. She's as strong as me."

Now the couples are taking heart from raising money for the people who helped them during their darkest hours. The Mole's are supporting Sands – a still birth and neo-natal death charity – to raise awareness and shake the taboo of losing a baby.

"The first few months were devastating and we just had to regroup but come Christmas we wanted to do something," says Dan, who hopes to help more men who have lost a baby.

"We're both a really positive couple and it gives us somewhere to focus our energy.

"Because you're in such a horrible place you think people who are supportive don't understand and those who are normal you think 'do they not realise what we've gone through?' Nobody can win and that's where something like Sands helped us, to give us somewhere to read people's stories and show us we weren't alone."



Dan and Emma Mole who have raised more than £4,000 for Sands charity

They set a £10,000 target and have already raised £4,253 while Richard has hit £625 in his efforts to reach £5,000 for University Hospital of North Staffordshire's neo-natal unit.

The footballing community has supported Dan with Wolves, Ipswich Motherwell and Watford donating shirts to auction off.

A Walsall All Stars game against Wolves is penned in for May 19 at the Banks's Stadium for Sands while Richard has launched a page on the justgiving internet site and will step up his fundraising efforts with auctions to support the staff he has so much admiration for.

"There's no way to explain what they're like," Richard says. "It was a pleasure for them to help us. They see what we saw every day but still had the time to talk to you one-on-one and let you know what was going on."

And with the two families' new philosophies Richard summed up his outlook succinctly. "We've always got the memories but it isn't good dwelling on the past," he says.

"Everything has a purpose and you get a new meaning on life, things you want to do and who you want to do it for. It's time to work on the future."

To make a donation, visit www.justgiving.com/richard-taundry and www.justgiving.com/DanielMole

BLOXWICH UTD

Taylor's tally hits 36 with final win

BLOXWICH UNITED 2 WOLVERHAMPTON CASUALS 1

Bloxwich striker Leon Taylor's brace in their final game of the season took his goals tally to 36 in all competitions as they came from behind to take all three points at home against Casuals.

The home side's first chance of the game came after 13 minutes when Alan Wilkes shot over when well placed following some good play between Lewis Perry and Richard Joyce.

Casuals responded and Ryan McAllister was forced to make an excellent saving tackle in the box for Bloxwich before some slack marking down the left allowed the visitors to break away and make it one nil after 20 minutes.

Taylor equalised for Bloxwich just 6 minutes later when he turned his marker on the edge of the box and curled the ball into the bottom corner of the net.

Some resolute defending by captain Gary Barton and John Walker kept Casuals at bay before Wilkes went close with a free kick for Bloxwich in the 36th minute after Perry had been brought down on the edge of the box.

The home side almost made it two on the stroke of half time when Taylor beat two men in the box and squared the ball to Karl Edwards but his shot was somehow blocked on the line and bundled to safety.

Bloxwich started the second half well and took the lead in the 51st minute when Leon Taylor produced an excellent finish for his 36th goal when he picked the ball up and chipped it over the Casuals' keeper.

Casuals pressed hard to get back into the game after Taylor's goal but couldn't find a way past Bloxwich's defensive trio of Walker, McAllister and Barton.

CRICKET

Bloxwich get winning draw

ALDRIDGE 259 FOR 9 BLOXWICH 99 FOR 3

Bloxwich were on their home turf again this week and with first team captain Danny King winning the toss and opting to field, things looked promising for them.

This was then followed with some tight fielding and great bowling from Aaron Alcock, Ashley Worgan, John Darby and Danny King all taking wickets but the other players did not want to lose the side down and there was some amazing catches from Andrew McAree, Jeremy Scott and James Lewis.

Leaving the score at the end of the first innings 251 runs for 9 wickets off 50 overs.

The weather turned dull and wet in the second innings but Bloxwich's spirit was not dampened and things were still looking bright for them with Danny King (29), Kelton Scott (10), Andrew McAree (4), Aaron Alcock (31no) and Lee Bates (12no) helping them on to a winning draw against Aldridge.

NETHER-WITACRE 265 FOR 5 BLOXWICH 269 FOR 4
Bloxwich Sunday team won the toss and elected to field, the first innings was well under way with the wicket takers Jack Keen, Frankie Eden, Ben Hollowood and Aaron Alcock leaving Nether-Whitacre with 265 runs for 5 wickets.

The second innings for Bloxwich started off strongly with Derek Westley (12), Lee Bates (75), Tom Wiggins (47) but the star of the innings was most definitely Scott Peach with an impressive 110no which carried Bloxwich to a well deserved win with 269 runs for 4 wickets.

Toss decision pays dividends

ALDRIDGE 148-ALL OUT BLOXWICH 151 FOR 2

In overcast and windy conditions, visiting captain Stuart Clarke, had little hesitation in asking Aldridge to bat first on Saturday, the decision soon paying dividends as the loss of steady wickets meant the home side were never able to inject any real momentum into their innings.

Had it not been for Indi Singh (42) and a gutsy partnership of 26 for the last wicket, Bloxwich would have been chasing fewer than the 149 required. There were three wickets a piece for Simon Langston (3-43) and Chris Moesley (3-15).

Des Smith (2) and a wicket apiece for Adam Lewis and Ed Dawes accounting for the others to fall.

In reply, the early loss of Dawes (7) and Lee Waltham (8) both to Farrow left the visitors 46-2. With the rain clouds gathering, skipper Clarke joined Emyr Evans at the crease and these two took the score to 61-2 before the players were forced from the field due to rain in the 18th over.

Thankfully, the rain relented and the players took to the field again some 30 minutes later. The break having little effect on the batsmen as Clarke in particular went after the home attack playing some forceful pull shots and booming drives.

With Evans quietly going about his work at the other end, these two saw Bloxwich home in the 32nd over, Clarke finishing (62 not out) and Evans (54 not out), securing a vital 20 points for the Stafford Road men.

JUNIORS

Scorpions heading for the semi-final

BUSH SCORPIONS 1 FC PREMIER 1 U10S (PENALTIES BUSH SCORPIONS 2 FC PREMIER 1)

This was a proper cup tie, as one parent said half way through. FC started well passing the ball with skill and vision, belying their position in the first division. The Scorpions were forced back and a certain defeat looked on the cards. Their first goal saw an FC Premier player beat three defenders and slotting the ball past the keeper.

Despite this the Scorpions came back and just before half time Sam Davies stepped and blasted a poor clearance into FC Premier's net. In the second half Liam McDermott stopped a certain goal as the ball caught him in the face, forcing a short break for a nose bleed.

Extra time loomed and went with penalties to force the decider. Liam McDermott stopped FC's first penalty and Taylor Evans gave Scorpions the lead. FC came back with an equaliser as Scorpions failed to grasp the initiative. After three penalties it then went to sudden death. Rhys Burbridge drilled his shot home leaving Liam McDermott to save FC Premier's next shot to get to the semi-finals, though not the best penalty the save gave Scorpions the win. A good sporting match all round. Man of the Match went to Liam McDermott.

BUSH SCORPIONS 1 CRESSWELL WANDERERS 0 U10S

The Scorpions started the match well and the first half saw a strong defence by the Wanderers and attacking as well. In the second half Sam Davies did some sterling work down the right wing and put some crosses into the wanderers penalty area.

One cross fell just right for Ben Southall who nudged the Scorpions ahead. Despite some runs on their goal they finished one goal ahead and progressed through to the quarter final.

NEWS

Students celebrate

Pupils from a Walsall school are celebrating after winning the first ever Walsall Schools Football Association (WSFA) Girls' League.

Alumwell Junior School's U11 team topped the final standings last week and completed a double, having won the Walsall Schools Girls' Tournament the previous Saturday.

Each girl received a medal for both competitions while the school, in Primley Avenue, now has a cup and a shield.

This Saturday the girls could secure yet another trophy if they win the Brownhills Community School tournament.

Teams call

Aldridge FC is looking for youth teams around U8s and U9s. The club has been established for eight years and is a Charter Standard Club. Contact Mark Revitt on 07595 607931 or email markrevitt@sky.com.

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MAJOR BOOST AS THE BUTLER DID IT

Smith is the man for the building job, says Nicholl

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Walsall have been handed a major boost after captain Andy Butler signed a two-year deal to stay at the Banks's Stadium.

And the central defender will be further rewarded by continuing to skipper the club next season, confirmed boss Dean Smith.



Two-year deal, Walsall skipper Andy Butler

Walsall's overwhelming Player of the Year was one of seven out-of-contract players offered new deals, along with Jimmy Walker, Matt Richards, Julian Gray, Emmanuel Ledesma, David Bevan and George Bowerman.

Butler's form is believed to have alerted a number of Championship clubs and League One sides to his possible availability this summer. But the 27-year-old has led the way for the rest by agreeing new terms on a deal to tie him to the Banks's Stadium to 2013.

"I'm really pleased that Andy sees his future here at Walsall," said Smith.

"I'm looking forward to him captaining the team again next season. He's a very popular figure both among fans and in the dressing room."

"He leads by example and has great ability and an attitude to match. I was very keen to seal his long-term future so to do so less than a week after the season has finished is very pleasing."

Butler, who arrived on a free transfer from Huddersfield in November, is delighted to be extending his stint with the Saddlers.

Honour
"It's great to have my future sorted out. I've loved every minute of my time at Walsall," he said.

"The fans took to me straight away and to captain the side has been a real honour. Next season is all about kicking on and taking the club forward and I'm delighted I'll be here to play a part in that."

Butler emerged as a cult figure at Walsall, making 32 appearances as the club secured League One survival.

He swept the boards in the end-of-season awards, winning the Player of the Year and the Players' Player of the Season gongs.

Butler played over 150 games in Scunthorpe's rise from League Two to the Championship before moving to Huddersfield in the summer of 2008.

He established himself as a regular for the Terriers before moving to Blackpool on loan in January 2010, helping the Tangerines secure a place in the Premier League.

Fans had crucial role in escape – Taundry

Richard Taundry hailed the Walsall fans for their role in the Saddlers' 'Great Escape'.

The midfielder clambered into the stands at Southampton to celebrate with supporters after last weekend's survival act on the final day of the season. And with another season in League One in the bag, Taundry admitted the faithful were key in the team's battle against the drop. He said: "I would like to say a big 'thank you' to the fans who really helped to pull us through because we needed them. Andy Butler and I made sure that we got in among them at the end of the game to show our appreciation."

More voices join Steve's call to buy Saddlers' site

Every fan needs to pile on the pressure

As Walsall Council takes a stand against buying Walsall's ground the number of voices calling for a change of heart is growing

Despite Walsall Council's emphatic stand that it will not buy the Saddlers' ground millionaire fan Steve Jenkins is calling for a swift end to the Banks's Stadium saga and revealed he will seek talks with the council.

The music producer and lifelong Saddler insisted the local authority buying the ground represents the best option for them and the club – despite the council's reluctance.

Leader Mike Bird dismissed the proposal last week claiming they didn't have the cash and had to slice £70m off their budget.

Mr Jenkins wrote an open letter to the press revealing he fears for the club's future should the stadium, which has been on the market since March, end up with a private investor or company.

The stadium could cost upwards of £5m and the former MD of Jive Records, who worked with R Kelly and Britney Spears, insisted he wants a quick resolution if a deal is possible.

"I need some assistance but I'd like to move swiftly," said Jenkins, who also revealed he wants to hold talks with Walsall chairman Jeff Bonser to discover more about the club's stance.

"I'm prepared to dedicate my time to speak to people and move it along. The land and the stadium will be sold and this summer is the time it will go. We need to act."

But Jenkins believes the council haven't given enough thought to the idea.

"I'd welcome a meeting with the leader of the council," said Jenkins. "It's an important issue. I can't see how you can say 'we are not interested' a day or two after my letter."

Chief throws hat in the ring

Walsall's chief executive added his voice to growing calls for the council to buy the freehold of the Banks's Stadium.

In a statement, Stefan Gamble argued the benefits of council ownership of the stadium and 17 acres of surrounding land are "significant" for both the club and the local authority. He said buying the freehold was a "sound financial investment" that could safeguard hundreds of jobs.

The chief executive was responding to calls made by music guru and avid Saddlers fan Steve Jenkins. Walsall Council has already repeatedly ruled itself out of buying the stadium at a time when it needs to save £70m.

But Mr Gamble said: "We welcome Steve Jenkins' call for the council to purchase the freehold of the Banks's Stadium site and in effect secure the long-term future of the club and league football within the town for generations to come."

Opportunity

"Since the announcement that the freehold was to be put on the market, it has always been my belief that the ownership of the stadium should remain within the town, and this represents a unique opportunity for the council to purchase one of the town's most valuable community assets and in turn safeguard hundreds of local jobs."

The chief executive said the club was in a strong position financially and was not looking for a hand-out from the council or anyone else.

"I am fully aware that the council faces stringent budget constraints and cuts, including job losses, but the purchase of the freehold represents a very sound financial investment," he said.

"The benefits of council ownership, not only for the club, but the council itself are significant. The importance of the club to the town should not be underestimated."

Steve Jenkins moves in different circles than most from WS1.

As a former MD of Jive Records – once the biggest independent record label in the world – he is on first name terms with Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake.

But it was the Walsall fan inside him which made him, go public with his desire to convince the local council to buy the up-for-sale Banks's Stadium.

He fears for the club's future should the ground end up with a private owner or company and wants to sit round the table with the council and Walsall chairman Jeff Bonser to talk.

It's not an ego trip, he is deadly serious, and is keen to shake the idea of 'music mogul' and be known as Steve, the Walsall fan.

"I don't want to be called a record mogul. I'm a record producer. I don't want to be the white knight riding into town."

"I'm a fan off the terraces with a little bit of pull trying to help," he says.

Softly spoken and relaxed – a rare trait for a Walsall fan after their Great Escape in League One this season – it is a sense of duty which has led him to this point.

He wants to unite the town by launching a concerted effort to get the council to buy the ground – despite council leader Mike Bird insisting the council won't purchase the land.

"I've been going from the days at Fellows Park to now and I'm thinking more and more that, come August, it will be the start of my 50th

Walsall legend Chris Marsh also threw his weight behind Steve Jenkins and insisted he is the real deal and the former MD of Jive Records, wasn't doing it just to gain publicity.

He's got Walsall running through his veins," said the ex-defender, who made 479 appearances for the Saddlers.

"I would rather have someone like him, with a bit of influence and razzmatazz, trying to do something than not at all. He's one of the most



Steve Jenkins

season as a supporter," he says.

"I've got to have a go – I can't explain it any other way – 50 years says I've got to have a go."

"I think it should happen. It feels right but we'll see. I feel I've made a commitment to the supporters to try to get it on the council's agenda and I'm delighted they're supporting me. I feel a great responsibility to keep going. I'm not going to stop because one person says 'I don't fancy it'."

Guarantee

There is a fear from the Saddlers fans despite the club having a covenant on the ground which should guarantee their future for another 83 years – a new stadium owner could harm them.

It's something Steve is wary of too. "I'd say I'm a little sceptical of that (the covenant)," he says.

"I was in business for a long time and had a lot of contracts about a lot of things. Contracts are only useful when there's trouble and when there's serious trouble there are a lot of ways to get out of them."

"I'm aware of it but I haven't seen it written down anywhere in really

black ink which no-one can rub out." He sees no difficulty in galvanising support for his proposal though, which is quickly gathering pace.

Last week he met with the three fan groups at the club, Unity, the Supporters' Trust and the Supporters' Club to mobilise the support and numbers which he believes are hiding in the town. "It's a one man show here so I thought I should talk to the supporters' groups," he says.

"They were incredibly knowledgeable. They knew more than I did and by the end of the evening I was the lightweight."

There are 5,000 – 6,000 hardcore Walsall fans and 10,000 people who are passive. By that I mean they read all the reports, they know what players we sign, but they rarely go.

"I know they are there and the reason I know is I saw them at the Millennium Stadium in 2001 (the 3-2 play-off final victory against Reading).

"Then, when I had my work exhibition it was the most visited exhibition in Walsall museum's history as 8,000 people went."

"So there's 5,000, plus 10,000, plus 8,000 which is 23,000. I would ask them to take a minute out of their life, send a text, make a call, write a letter or an email – any of those things – and send it to your local councillor."

"All I want it to say is: 'Banks's Stadium for Walsall people', or 'Banks's Stadium, the next 100 years'. That's all I want, so the local councillors know you have some care and concern for the club."

genuine people you can meet. The fans have to back Steve all the way and hopefully we can get the council on board.

"If you can show me a bigger Walsall fan than Steve then I'd like to meet him."

"He used to go to New York twice a month for long weekends for work but he'd fly back on a Saturday to watch Walsall and then return to New York on the Sunday. He's the real deal."

"He goes back to the Don Penn era, – he lives and breathes Walsall."

Coach Chris Nicholl said managerial novice Dean Smith is just the man to exploit the summer transfer market and transform Walsall's League One outlook.

Having clinched an against-all-odds survival on the final day of the season, Smith has begun clearing the decks at the Banks Stadium with nine players cut from the squad in the retained list announced yesterday.

Former Saddlers boss Nicholl has been a silent partner in the backroom team Smith is eager to keep together if budgets will allow.

But he broke his silence to offer a ringing endorsement to the 40-year-old boss who stepped up from the youth coach role to inspire a team rock-bottom when he succeeded Chris Hutchings in January's first week.

Nicholl said: "He had a good background in that he knew the way the club was set up and how it worked. He had that advantage over people."

Inspired

"He was an inspired choice in so many ways. He knows the game. That's the bottom line; he knows his football. He knows what he wants."

"He had been watching them for a year or so and knew what to do. He knows the market. He knows who he can bring in and for how much – all that side of things is well taken care of."

"There is a huge turnover of players these days. It's the way the game operates, especially at the level we are working at."

"And Dean's knowledge will be invaluable in terms of getting in the right players. That is so vital for a club such as Walsall. He knows the market and it has certainly worked so far. I think Walsall is in very good hands."

Smith is eager to get the club looking upwards next season – and that means a challenge for promotion. Nicholl admitted: "The real test will be next year and Dean knows that; he knows expectations will be that much higher and that the job starts now, so to speak."

"But he's a likeable lad and I think the players will go with that. You can't have everybody on your side but most of them will like him."

Pics pick up trophy to cap the season



Rushall celebrate their Walsall Senior Cup victory
RUSHALL OLYMPIC 3 ELLESMERE RANGERS 0

Rushall Olympic capped off a super season by lifting the Walsall Senior Cup at the Banks's Stadium last night.

Ahmed Obeng was the star of the show with two assists for Lei Brown and a goal of his own as the Pies won the trophy for the second time in three seasons.

Two minutes before the interval some superb work by Obeng finally paid dividends as the forward carved his way through the field before delivering a pinpoint centre to the far post where Brown bravely bundled the ball in from close range.

Just prior to the hour mark Chris Gemmell was called into action to tip over a free-kick and soon after Obeng teed-up Brown who made no mistake with a deadly finish from just inside the box.

The second goal finally appeared to subdue Rangers and with eight minutes remaining Obeng capped his man-of-the-match display by claiming a goal of his own. Lewis wrestled away possession before playing a fine pass inside to his strike partner who proceeded to side-step an opponent before rifling in low past Mulliner. With two minutes left Ellesmere's night was summed up as substitute Shaun Butler delivered a centre only to see Barton slide in and miss an open goal.

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Neil Lester
Furniture Manager



up to

£1000
off a new sofa



WESTMINSTER

Three seater cream leather
manual recliner sofa.
WAS £2199. Quickshop 406178

NOW **£1199** **SAVE** **£1000**

10 years peace of mind guaranteed with every conservatory

If you're considering adding space or improving the exterior of your home, then our Conservatory and Glazing experts here at Leekes are full of great ideas to help.

Using the finest materials, the latest technology and traditional craftsmanship, you'll find the most up to the minute innovations available – from conservatories with tiled roofs to garden rooms and orangeries.

And it's not just about conservatories. Installing replacement windows and doors, garage doors and soffits and fascias is something we're experienced in too.

Whatever home improvement project you're considering investing in, there's free design as well as a planning and installation service and a 10 year guarantee for total peace of mind - from a company with over 100 years of experience.

A Leekes conservatory... more affordable than you might think



Craig MacRedie
Sales Consultant

...at just
£99
per month*

plus
FREE
cane
furniture!†

Unbeatable finance from just
7.9% APR
REPRESENTATIVE

- Personal loan amounts from £1,000 to £25,000
- Repayment terms to suit you – choose from 3, 4, 5 & 8 years
- Just £100 deposit to pay

Conditions apply, see in store for further details.

*Representative example, based on a CASA conservatory spend of £9,499. 7.9% APR representative. £99 per month for 96 months. £2,402 deposit. Total payable £11,906. Price is based on a white 3m x 3m conservatory and includes all building work, electrics, installation, insulated base, cavity walls (600mm height), toughened glass where required and 25mm polycarbonate roof. Price assumes a level site with no obstructions. conditions subject to site survey. †Conditions apply, see in store for details.



Samantha Woolley
Home Accessories Manager

The finishing touches make all the difference

You'll find carpets, wallpaper, cushions, lighting, cookware, mirrors, bedding, pictures and so much more – so it's easy to see why we're the one stop destination store for the perfect finishing touches.

And if you need a helping hand, then speak to our Interior Design team. Their speciality is knowing everything there is to know about designer fabrics from Harlequin, Romo, Blendworth and Designers Guild and how best to use them to create gorgeous bespoke window treatments, cushions and throws which will make a statement or simply make you feel at home. And what's more, their advice is free so it's well worth paying the team a visit when you pop into store.

PLUS
UP TO

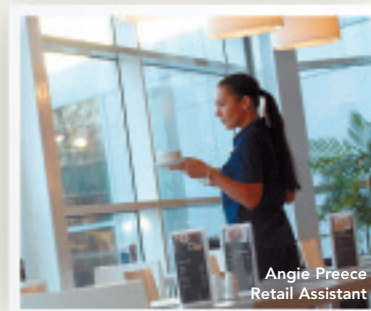
3

YEARS INTEREST
FREE CREDIT**

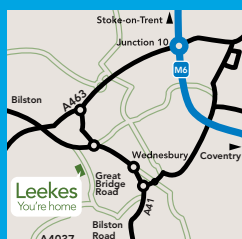
*Plus up to €300 off dining sets
and up to €200 off beds!*

Come and join us in our new café

Take some time out in our new café. It's a great addition to our new look store and lets you refresh yourself and take the weight off your feet after all that shopping!



Angie Preece
Retail Assistant



Bilston
Great Bridge Road WV14 8LB
call 0845 050 8240
or visit leekes.co.uk

Leekes
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